■ SUPER/E1

Dream interview with super amazing Darna (Angel Locsin)

■ NEWS/A2

Palace declares Oct. 31, Nov. 28, Dec. 26 special non-working holidays

■ ACROSS/A19

His wealth gone, Junjie Lopez became closer to God

■ WORLD/A11

Powell calls UN speech to push for Iraq war 'a blot' on his record

Up to 100,000 Pinays listed in 200 Internet dating sites

ROSALYN IS NOT FUSSY WHEN IT COMES to men.

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"Life is hard here in the Philippines," Rosalyn wrote in one of the Internet matchmaking sites for Filipino women that have sprout-

UP TO/ A20

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Cory rejects Gloria's call for reconciliation

By Fe Zamora

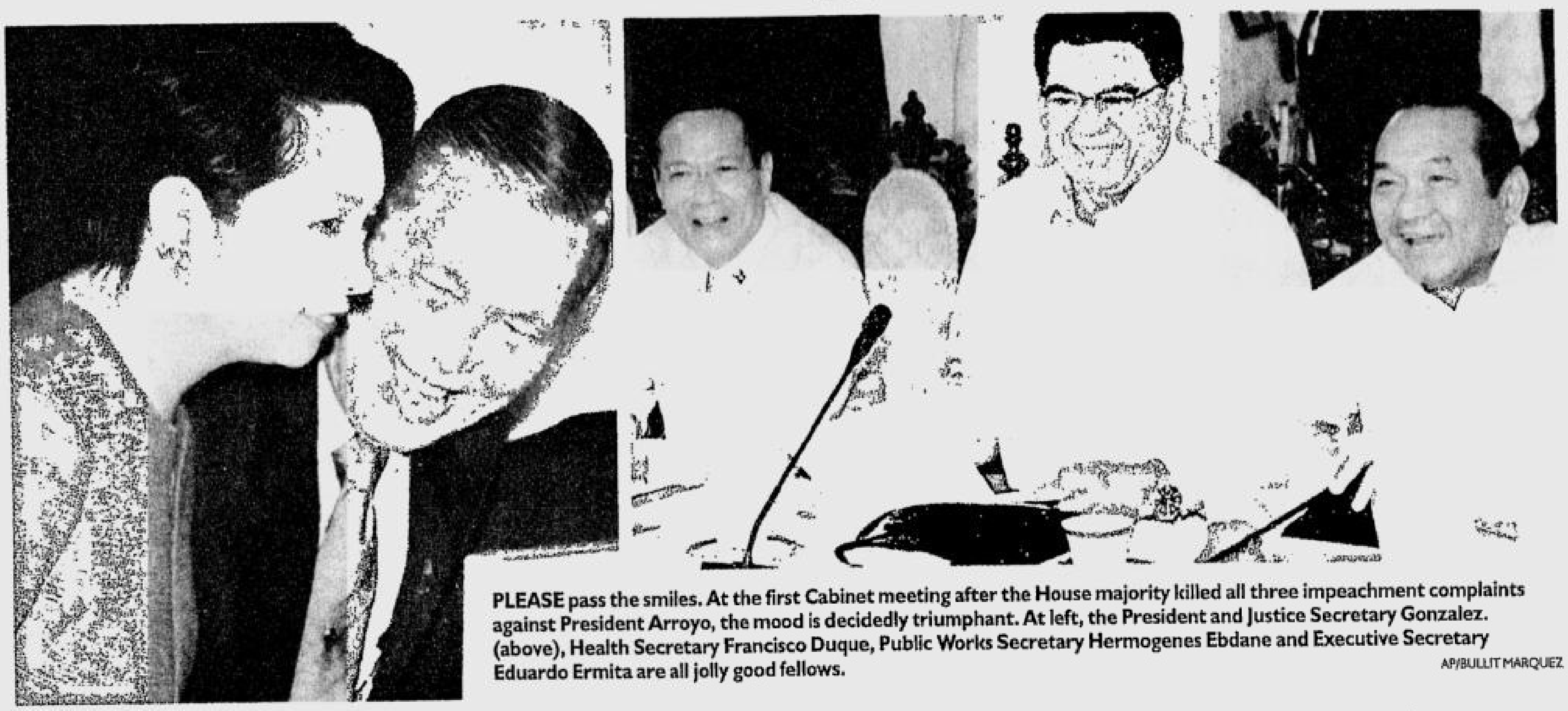
FORMER PRESIDENT CORAZON AQUINO last night all but rejected President Macapagal-Arroyo's call for national reconciliation and vowed to press her "non-violent and peaceful protest."

Aquino said she would go to schools and

CORY REJECTS/ A19

GMA choice stirs military

Last-minute Southcom appointment confuses officials



PLEASE pass the smiles. At the first Cabinet meeting after the House majority killed all three impeachment complaints against President Arroyo, the mood is decidedly triumphant. At left, the President and Justice Secretary Gonzalez. (above), Health Secretary Francisco Duque, Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane and Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita are all jolly good fellows. AP/BULLIT MARQUEZ

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau
and Dona Pazzibugan

ZAMBOANGA CITY—It was to have been a big day in Maj. Gen. Samuel Bagasin's career. His wife came and even his parents flew in from the United States to share the moment with him.

But Bagasin, commander of the Army's 4th Infantry Division in Cagayan de Oro City, never got to savor the day.

In a seemingly surprise, last-minute move, President Macapagal-Arroyo designated Armed Forces Deputy Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Edilberto Adan—not Bagasin—as Southern Command chief, replacing the retiring Lt. Gen. Alberto Braganza.

Adan's assumption of the command yesterday promptly stirred a new controversy in the military as the Board of Generals (BOG) had earlier recommended Bagasin to the post.

The presidential appointment of Adan was announced on Thursday night during a testimonial dinner in Camp Aguinaldo for Braganza, on the eve of his retirement.

Ms Arroyo's decision surprised many.

As of Thursday morning, officials had been sure the post would go to Bagasin.

GMA CHOICE/ A8

Bishops tell Miriam: The problem is morality

By Christian V. Esguerra and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

RANKING CLERGYMEN YESTERday said the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines could not divorce itself from moral issues, and contested Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago's invocation of the words of Pope Benedict XVI in trying to keep the CBCP out of politics.

"Her interpretation is wrong," Msgr. Hernando Coronel, CBCP secretary general, said of Santiago, one of President Macapagal-Arroyo's ardent defenders.

"We cannot confine ourselves to the sacristy. We also have to involve ourselves in moral issues affecting our people," Coronel told reporters.

Archbishop Oscar Cruz, anti-"jueteng" crusader and a vocal critic of Ms Arroyo's, said keeping silent on the "immoral acts" of politicians would be tantamount to "betraying the task given by Christ to the bishops to teach Gospel lessons."

"Don't tell me that politics is above the 10 commandments. The principle of right and wrong, bad and good, applies to politics and politicians," Cruz told the INQUIRER.

According to Cruz, who was president of the CBCP during the Ramos administration, bishops always speak "on the basis of Gospel truth and moral principles."

"If the CBCP speaks about lying, cheating and stealing—though this can be done by political figures—they remain moral issues and, consequently, the CBCP has to address them," he said.

Cruz also said a prelate would digress from his pastoral role only if he addressed "exclusively political issues."

Cruz and Coronel were reacting to Santiago's warning on Thursday that the Church should focus, not on politics, but on guiding the morality of its flock.

Santiago had expressed concern over the stand of certain bishops that the House of Representatives' dismissal of the impeachment case against Ms Arroyo did not put closure on allegations that she had rigged the 2004 election.

The senator cited Benedict's position that the clergy should not meddle in domestic politics.

BISHOPS/ A8

CBCP now denies getting cash envelopes from Pagcor

By Christian V. Esguerra and Jerry E. Esplanada

IT IS NOT TRUE THAT BISHOPS received envelopes containing cash from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. last July, a ranking official of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines said yesterday.

"There were no such envelopes from Pagcor," Msgr. Hernando Coronel, CBCP secretary general, told reporters. Coronel said Archbishop Paciano Aniceto was probably misquoted when he was reported as saying that the state-run gambling agency left the envelopes on the bishops' desks at the end of their retreat in Tagaytay City.

Coronel was trying to douse suspicion that the bishops, through Pagcor, might have been influenced by Malacañang not to support widespread demands for President Macapagal-Arroyo to step down.

In its July 10 statement, the CBCP simply acknowledged that calling for Ms Arroyo's resignation, her impeachment and the establishment of a truth commission to look into the "Hello, Garci" scandal, were options that were "not against the Gospel."

The statement is said to have allowed the beleaguered President to regain lost ground at the peak of the worst political crisis to hit her administration.

The INQUIRER last week quoted Aniceto as saying that Pagcor officials left "little envelopes" containing "different amounts of money" on the bishops' desks last July, as they ended their retreat and prepared for their annual conference in Tagaytay.

He said he and other bishops had decided to take the money for use in charity projects.

There is an apparent confusion over which occasion Aniceto had referred to.

The CBCP has not been holding

CBCP/ A8

Dick bares Subic tradeoff, threatens break with GMA

By TJ Burgonio and Christine O. Avendaño

ANOTHER TRADEOFF

Administration Sen. Richard Gordon yesterday threatened to break ties with President Macapagal-Arroyo if the latter rescinds an executive order banning the importation of used vehicles into the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.

"I hope she doesn't sign it because I am going to leave the President if she allows these cars to go over there," a fuming Gordon told reporters during a briefing at his Senate office.

Gordon expressed suspicion that the planned revocation of Executive Order No. 156 was a tradeoff for Rep. Eulogio Magsaysay's withdrawal of his signature from the impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo last month.

"Why would he withdraw? Why did he accept P500,000? ... Let's put away our masks," he said, referring to the congressman, who is a nephew of the late President Ramon Magsaysay and cousin of Zambales Gov. Vicente Magsaysay.

"That was used in the impeachment; there's a tradeoff there," he added, claiming that Governor Magsaysay and Rep. Ma. Milagros "Mitos" Magsaysay brought the congressman to the Palace before his turnaround.

"President Macapagal-Arroyo must change her ways if she wants change. She claims she wants change for the people, then [she] should stop politicking. What is needed in our country is

DICK/ A20

"A HEAVY BURDEN," Imee Marcos describes her mother Imelda's support of President Arroyo in a press statement on Friday. She also admits "to the tension between myself and my mother." REUTERS

DESPERATELY seeking for her to explain the unexplainable, the media staked out Rep. Imee Marcos at the Naia upon arrival from Singapore.

ROGER MARGALLO

Imee on disappearing act: 'Twas family decision

By Nikko Dizon and Norman Bordadora

IMEE MARCOS—AFRAID?

Marcos was not only a no-show during the critical voting at the House of Representatives, she explained her disappearance saying that her one vote was not enough to kill the impeachment complaint.

"During the efforts to push the impeachment complaint, it was clear to me that it would be very difficult to

IMEE/ A8

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming frequent rains over the Western sections of Southern Luzon and Visayas. The rest of Luzon will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

COMPILED BY: ERIKA A. SARMIENTO, PDI RESEARCH/09/10/05 SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

NDF turnaround irks gov't panel

THE GOVERNMENT YESTERDAY ACCUSED COMmunist rebels of turning their back on an agreement to resume peace talks next month aimed at finally ending decades of armed conflicts.

The government's negotiating panel said the statement on Thursday by chief rebel negotiator Luis Jalandoni that there was no such agreement had gone back on what had been agreed at informal talks in Oslo, Norway, on Aug. 29-30.

"It is a sudden and mystifying turnaround from the agreements," said a government statement. Jalandoni's statement "reflects the total opposite of what transpired between the two panels," the statement added.

The National Democratic Front (NDF), the political wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) on Thursday denied that both sides had agreed to resume formal peace negotiations in Oslo next month and that a joint ceasefire would take effect.

Jalandoni confirmed that government and NDF representatives did meet in Norway but said no final deal was reached.

The government said the NDF statement had "disturbed the environment conducive to fruitful dialogue" and that it was now considering a response.

The government peace panel met last night to assess Jalandoni's statement and was expected to come up with a statement today.

Undersecretary Rene Sarmiento, officer in charge of the Office of the Presidential Adviser for the Peace Process, said in a phone interview that the government panel has already gotten hold of Jalandoni's statement and was studying it.

But he refrained from making any statements until the panel concludes its discussions. Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye likewise had no comment.

"What we know is that we will always keep our doors opened to principled talks with all those who have opposed government," Bunye told reporters.

The NDF accused Malacañang of using the peace talks as diversionary tactics against the swelling rage of the people after Congress junked the impeachment case against President Macapagal-Arroyo who was accused of electoral fraud and corruption.

"The announcement of the GRP has no basis. They (government officials) just want to divert the attention from the outrage of the people," Jalandoni, chair of the NDF negotiating panel, told the INQUIRER in an e-mailed response to a query.

He stressed that no agreement could be reached in the Oslo meeting last week since the government delegation has no mandate to conclude an accord.

He reiterated the need to first resolve all the outstanding issues before the resumption of formal peace talks. Jalandoni said the Philippine government should first address all the prejudicial questions that they have raised like the government complicity with the foreign terrorist listing of the CPP, the New People's Army and CPP founder Jose Maria Sison.

"They should also order to stop the assassination attempts against Atty. Romeo Capulong, Joma and other consultants. The NDFP has consistently taken this position and has not withdrawn it," he explained.

Peace talks have been stalled for a year over the NDF's demand to no longer be classified as a foreign terrorist organization. The rebels had also said they would no longer talk to Ms Arroyo's government. In response, the government had threatened to withdraw the immunity-from-arrest guarantees extended to the 97-member NDF peace panel.

However, after the last ditch, informal talks in August, the government said it had agreed to reinstate the immunity and resume the formal negotiations. *AFP with reports from Christine O. Avendaño and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

PULIS
PULIS
MPD

DELIVERING A POINT

Students clash with the police during a rally near the US Embassy in Manila. The militant group has called on leaders of the United Nations to condemn President Macapagal-Arroyo for refusing to answer questions about the legitimacy of her administration. REM ZAMORA

BACK TO STREET PROTESTS

Opposition solons drop plan to bring impeach case to SC

PRO-IMPEACHMENT LEGISLAtors yesterday said they were dropping an earlier plan to appeal the House committee on justice decision to dismiss all three impeachment complaints before the Supreme Court.

"We expect that the Supreme Court will only come up with an answer that it is a political issue. It will set us back several months and we will only find ourselves back at zero," said San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora.

Besides, he noted that others have already filed their own motions with the high court.

"We do not need the SC to tell the Congress that they were wrong in their move," Sorsogon Rep. Francis Escudero told reporters during a prayer rally at Plaza Miranda yesterday.

"What we intend to do is to question the committee on justice's decision and procedures," said Zamora, one of the leaders of the opposition's impeachment team.

He said the proimpeachment congressmen would likely join the intensified protest actions against the President.

Escudero and opposition representatives Alan Peter Cayetano, Rolex Suplico and party-list Rep. Joel Villanueva spoke to a crowd of around 200 members of the People's Movement Against Poverty (PMAP).

Escudero said they would continue to hold "peaceful" protest rallies in different parts of the country to demand Ms Arroyo's removal. *Norman Bordadora and Margaux C. Ortiz*

Palace declares 3 Mondays as holidays

By Christine O. Avendaño

SMARTING FROM BUSINESSmen's outcry regarding its flip-flopping over holiday proclamations, Malacañang yesterday reissued an earlier order declaring some days in the remaining months as holidays.

The Palace issued anew Proclamation Order # 839 declaring the following days as holidays:

- Oct. 31 (which falls on a Monday) a special (non-working) holiday aimed at giving people more time to observe All Saints' Day;
- Nov. 28 (Monday) a non-working holiday. Nov. 30 or Bonifacio Day, on the other hand, was designated a working day; and
- Dec. 26 (Monday), a special (non-working) day, which follows Dec. 25 or Christmas Day, a regular holiday.

The proclamation order was actually signed by President Macapagal-Arroyo last May 10.

But it was issued again to give notice to businessmen, who recently requested the Palace to make sure that it announced holidays early so as to avoid creating confusion among the public.

Last month, the Palace belatedly announced that Aug. 29 was a public holiday, since the day before, Aug. 28, was National Heroes' Day.

Malacañang officials only got to clarify on Aug. 28 that the next day would be a non-working day for government employees and not private employees.

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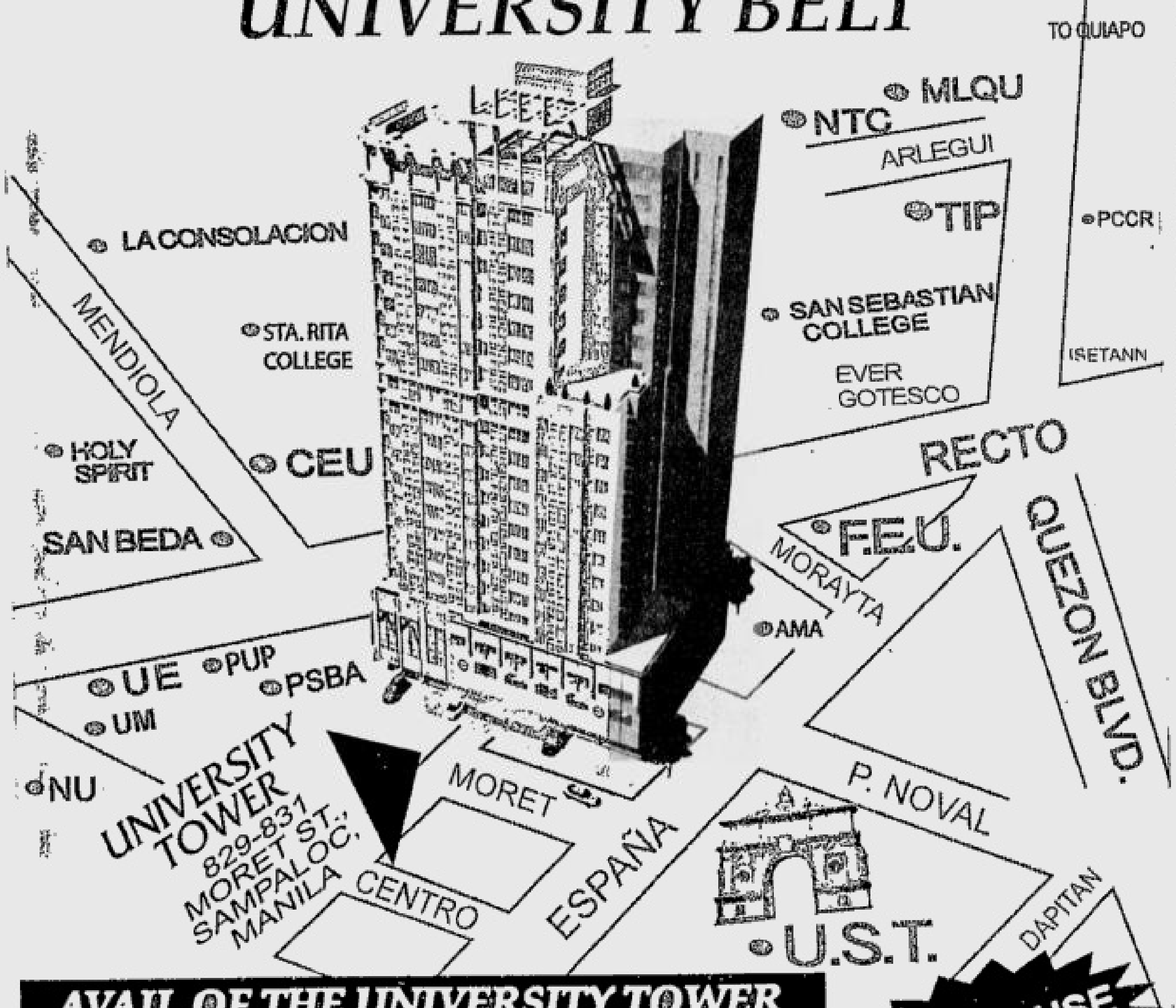

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SAN MATEO RAID

AFP opts to keep mum after Senate grilled Isafp

By Dona Pazzibugan and Luige A. del Puerto

STILL RECOVERING FROM THE HUMILIAtion it suffered at the hands of Senate investigators on Thursday, the military yesterday did not attempt to defend its controversial raid on an opposition safe house in San Mateo, Rizal, on Aug. 17.

Lt. Col. Buenaventura Pascual, the Armed Forces public information chief, gave no explanation for the inconsistent explanations given by officers from the Intelligence Service of the AFP (Isafp) for the seizure of several boxes of election returns and other supposed election fraud evidence being from Segundo Tabayoyong, a documents analyst for the opposition.

"Right now, it's hard to comment on the case because it is with the Senate," said Pascual. He said they would rather look at the Senate investigation as a learning experience.

"We see it in a positive way. The military and police are under the watchful eyes of our senators. If there is abuse, this will be checked and stopped," he said.

Pascual said they were leaving it up to the Senate committee and the general public to decide whether the Isafp had violated privacy rights.

Isafp chief Brig. Gen. Marlu Quevedo and legal counsel Maj. Serme Ayuyao were scolded and berated by senators at the Senate hearing when they came up with inconsistent accounts of the raid.

Asked if the raid was a mistake, Pascual replied: "It's hard for us to answer that because we'll be giving you a self-serving answer. Isafp thinks they did their job. It's up to the public to judge."

"It's good there's the Senate to correct us. There's check and balance. We are checked," he added.

Pascual urged the senators not to slash the military's budget because of the San Mateo raid.

The police meanwhile said it did not know that the Isafp was looking for suspected Abu Sayyaf members in the San Mateo raid.

"We only learned about the specifics of the operation yesterday, during the Senate inquiry," said Supt. Wilben Mayor, head of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group team that "assisted" the Isafp during the raid.

"We did not know about the Abu Sayyaf aspect of it," he said.

Mayor said that when the Isafp called the CIDG-National Capital Region, the military said the operation had something to do with "suspicious activities of persons in connection with terrorist operations."

Mayor said Ayuyao, who headed the Isafp team, had told him that what was discovered in the house seemed like a matter that the police should attend to.

The term "terrorist" was broad and could refer to a communist rebel as easily as to a Muslim extremist, said Mayor.

But the official insisted that his team did nothing illegal when it swooped down on the house where Tabayoyong was staying.

He said it was not true that the CIDG-NCR agents barged into Tabayoyong's room.

"We did not. We never entered the room. When we arrived there, the bundles (of election returns) were already in the sala of the house. We did not move them from the room to the sala," he said.

This distinction was important, he said, because of the legal question of whether it was proper for the police to search Tabayoyong's room without a warrant.

Mayor, who is a lawyer, said not even the owner of a house can enter a rented room without the consent of the occupant who has "juridical possession" of that room.

But because the documents were already in the sala, not in the room, Mayor said there was nothing illegal about their search.

He said that the CIDG-NCR head, Sr. Supt. Asher Dolina, earlier explained that since the police had no expertise to determine what the documents were, the election returns had to be taken to Camp Crame to be inventoried.

The Commission on Elections could later verify their authenticity and instruct the police what to do with them, he said.

"So we ensured their integrity and made an inventory, subject to the claims of rightful owners. And we did just that, we turned them over," Mayor said.

The election returns were later returned to Tabayoyong, said to be the chief witness of defeated vice presidential candidate Loren Legarda in her election protest.

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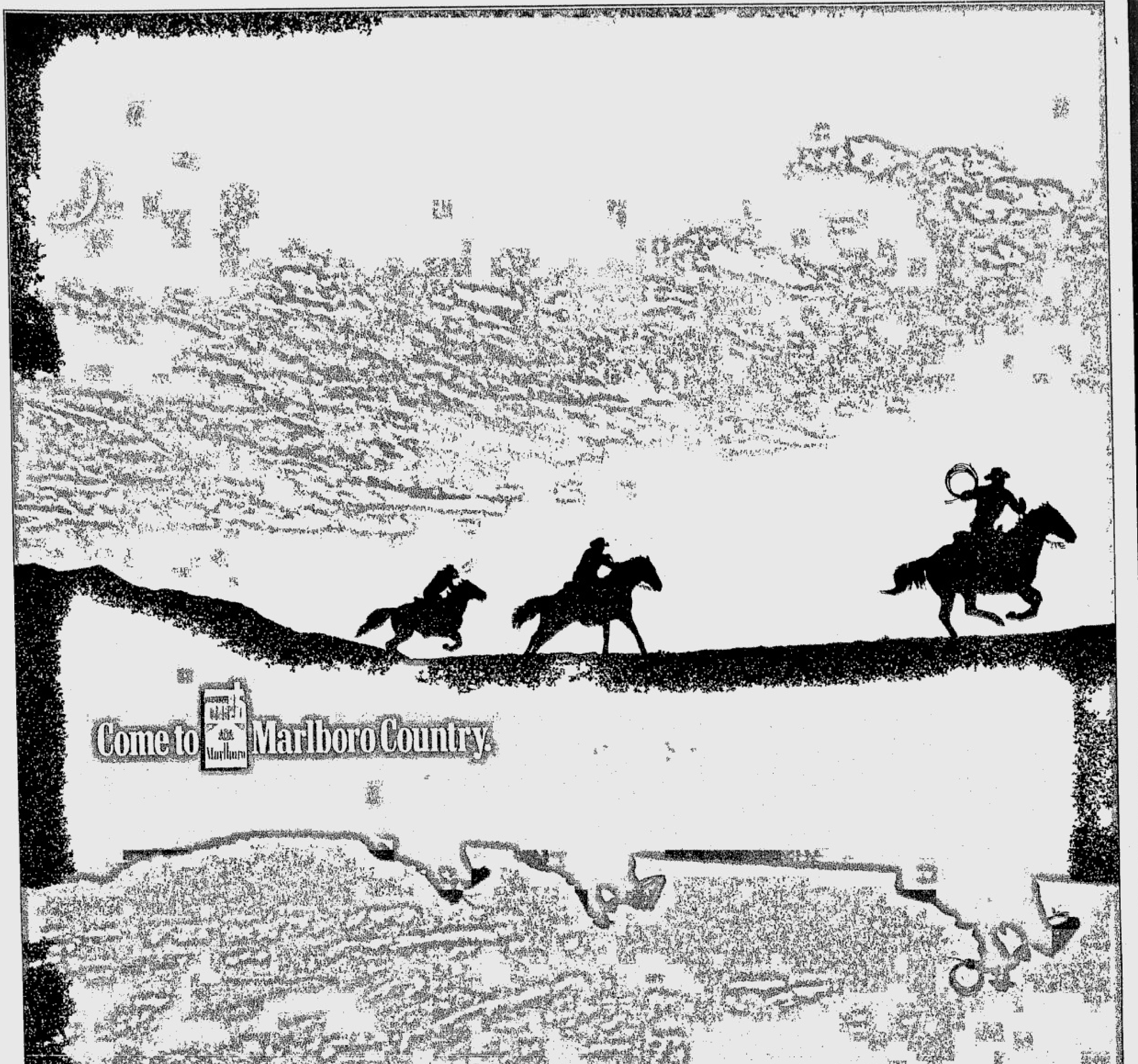

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How Can We Move On Without the Truth?

We, the concerned members of the Ateneo de Manila University, are outraged by the deliberate and concerted efforts to dismiss the impeachment complaints against President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. By preventing the impeachment process from moving forward, 158 legislators have obstructed a crucial constitutional means of surfacing the truth and calling the President to account.

We believe that the political should always be moral. Therefore, we are holding these elected Representatives to Congress responsible for:

1. curtailing the investigation of serious charges of culpable violations of the Constitution, betrayal of the public trust through electoral fraud, and bribery, graft and corrupt practices leveled against the President;
2. engaging in patronage politics at the expense of finding out the whole truth.

They have done our people a great disservice. *Sinupil nila ang demokratikong proseso.*

But we will not be defeated. We will exhaust all constitutional means to let the truth emerge. For only with the truth can we move on.

Patuloy tayong manalangin.
Patuloy tayong makialam at manindigan.
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We invite everyone to come to the Ateneo on Tuesday, 13 September, to stand up for the truth: Noise barrage at 4:30 pm (Gate 2, Katipunan); Holy Mass at 6:00 pm (Church of the Gesù); Candle Vigil at 7:00 pm (Gate 3, Katipunan).

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Gov't raises alarm for 3 radioactive capsules

GOVERNMENT NUCLEAR REGULATORS yesterday appealed for public help in the search for three capsules containing radioactive substances that were pilfered from a disused factory.

The capsules with the radioactive gas Krypton-85 were apparently stolen from the abandoned Paper City Corp. Compound in Mapulang Lupa, Valenzuela, Bulacan earlier this year, said Teofilo Leonin, who heads the nuclear regulatory assessment unit at the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute.

Exposure to Krypton-85 can cause third-degree burns, said Leonin whose unit inspects licensed users of such equipment.

The capsules were used to measure the thickness and density of paper. The factory closed more than a year ago amid a court case.

It is possible those who took the equipment did not know what it contained and were hoping to sell it to a scrap dealer, Leonin said.

The Krypton-85 gas was encased in three 1.5-cm titanium capsules, which were in a steel container that acted as radiation shield, said Leonin.

It can cause third-degree burns within minutes to anyone who gets within 30 centimeters of the concentrated gas if it's outside of a container, he said.

However, he said Krypton-85 poses no hazard to people after it diffuses into the air, he said.

"Our analysis is those who got it were interested in the scrap metal"—probably the steel radiation shield—Leonin said.

The amount of missing radioactive gas is too small and weak to be used as a weapon, "but we cannot stop terrorists from claiming that it is dangerous," he said.

He appealed to the public to report any information on the missing capsules' whereabouts.

The factory's owners are undergoing court litigation after the property was foreclosed by a bank.

Residents in the area have reported looting of the abandoned factory in recent months.

In a recent visit by inspectors, radiation detectors "yielded negative results indicating that there are no radioactive materials inside the building," the PNRI reported. *AFP, AP*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, September 10, 2005
23rd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 1 Tim 1:15-17
Gospel: Luke 6:43-49

Jesus said to the crowd, "No healthy tree bears bad fruit, no poor tree bears good fruit. And each tree is known by the fruit it bears: you don't gather figs from thorns, or grapes from brambles. Similarly the good person draws good things from the good stored in the heart, and an evil person draws evil things from the evil stored in the heart. For the mouth speaks from the fullness of the heart.

"Why do you call me: 'Lord! Lord!' and not do what I say? I will show you what the one who comes to me and listens to my words and acts accordingly, is like. That one is like the builder who dug deep and laid the foundations of his house on rock. The river overflowed and the stream dashed against the house, but could not carry it off because the house had been well built.

"But the one who listens and does not act, is like a man who built his house on the ground without a foundation. The flood burst against it, and the house fell at once: and what a terrible disaster that was!"

Commentary

The sayings of Jesus continue: what fruit do we bear (and trees usually bear every year as do grain and cereal crops)? What do others gather from our behaviors, choices, relationships and associations? Figs or thorns? Do we listen to Jesus' words and then act accordingly or do we listen to the words and go our own way, along with others, building our foundations on sand instead of stone. Do we listen? The word listen means to obey? Who do we obey? Daniel Berrigan once said that he spent his whole adult life looking for someone to obey? Are we heading for a disaster? Or are we building on the solid foundation of the Word of God, justice, care of the poor, love of enemies and being peacemakers and the children of God?

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- White Fungus w/ Minced Chicken Soup
- Steamed Prawn w/ Soy Sauce
- Spicy Squid
- Steamed Crab w/ Garlic
- Crabmeat Fried Rice
- Mango Sago
- Fruit Platter

SET MENU for 6
- Fried Layered Pao
- Cold Cut Roasting Combination
- White Fungus w/ Minced Chicken Soup
- Steamed Prawn w/ Soy Sauce
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  - ranked 9th among Nursing Schools with 60 or more examinees
- June 2004 - Nursing Licensure Examination
  - ranked 18th overall among nursing schools in the Philippines
  - high passing performance
- April 2004 - Nursing Licensure Examination
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- MMICAA '03
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  - Ms. MMICAA '03
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- SADAC Sportsfest 2001
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- MASCUAT
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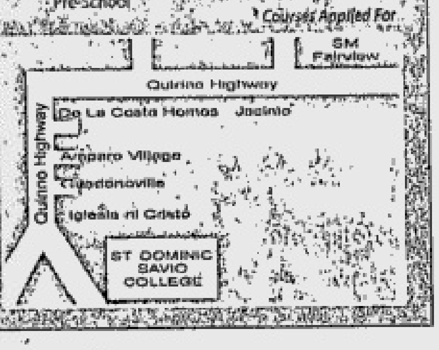

Best and brightest students to compete in Quiz Bee tilt

THE 26TH NATIONAL SUPER QUIZ BEE, THE longest running and most prestigious academic competition in the country, was recently launched by the Quiz Bee Foundation.

Starting September, the best and brightest students from all levels of public and private schools will be competing in four subject categories, namely: General Information and International Affairs for college, Science and Technology for high school, and Mathematics and Makabayan or Philippine History, Culture and Values for elementary students.

The nationwide eliminations are now ongoing for the following: School level – Aug. 1-31, District level – Sept.1-15, Division level – Sept. 16-30, Regional level – Oct.1-31 and the Grand Finals on Dec. 10.

In Metro Manila, the Division and Regional Quiz Bee eliminations will be held in leading malls on Saturdays from 1-5 p.m. to enable the public, especially the school children, to witness this intense competition.

These malls are SM City Manila on Sept. 10 for the division of Manila and Pasay City; Ali Mall on Sept. 24 for the division of Makati City and Quezon City; Robinsons Place Pioneer on Oct. 8 for the division of Caloocan City, Malabon and Navotas; SM Southmall on Oct. 15 for the division of Muntinlupa, Taguig, Pateros, Parañaque and Las Piñas; Robinsons Galleria on Oct. 22 for the division of Pasig City, Marikina, San Juan and Mandaluyong City; and SM City San Lazaro on Nov. 12 for the Metro Manila Regional Finals.

A total of 68 students from the country's 17 regions will be competing in the Grand Finals with only four emerging as champions in the four subject categories.

The Quiz Bee, whose mission is to strengthen education through academic excellence and values formation, has the full support of the Office of the President, Department of Education, Commission on Higher Education and the Department of Interior and Local Government.

This year's presentor is Ovaltine Power with major sponsors Datu Puti Patis, Uni Writing Instruments and Time Life Books.

The major donors are: the Philippine Daily Inquirer, JRS Express Worldwide Delivery, Navel Academy of Digital Arts, Megapix Digital Photography and Goodwill Bookstore.

For more information log on to www.quizbee.net or contact Quiz Bee CEO Pettizou P. Tayag at 7410856.

Corrections

IN YESTERDAY'S story, "MMDA can't close bus terminals, says court" which was published in the Metro Section on Page A23, it was misstated that "Judge Silvino Pampilo Jr. of Manila RTC Branch 26 yesterday issued Executive Order No. 179, which was enacted upon the recommendation of the MMDA, declaring the closure of bus terminals along major thoroughfares as 'unconstitutional' and 'inconsistent with the legal provisions of the Public Service Law'." It should have read, "Judge Silvino Pampilo Jr. of Manila RTC Branch 26 yesterday declared Executive Order No. 179, which was enacted upon the recommendation of the MMDA to close and eliminate bus terminals along major thoroughfares, as 'unconstitutional' and 'inconsistent with the legal provisions of the Public Service Law.'"

* * *

OUR ATTENTION was called to the third paragraph of the story "Sugar in tight supply as farmers take to growing bananas" written by Christine A. Gaylican, which appeared on Page B8 of the Sept. 9 issue of the Philippine Daily Inquirer's Business section.

"From September 2004 up to August 2005, only 2.15 million metric tons of *bananas* were harvested as opposed to the 2.27 million metric tons of the previous crop year, according to the Sugar Regulatory Authority.

The underscored word should have read "sugar," instead of "bananas."

* * *

IN YESTERDAY'S story How La Salle president united opposition, the name Dr. Minguita Padilla-Marasigan should have read as Dr. Minguita Padilla. The INQUIRER based her long name from a leaflet distributed by the White Ribbon Movement, where Dr. Padilla is a member of the steering committee.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses: glirio@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent, pending the appointment of a new readers' advocate, to Isagani Yambot, publisher, the same address and fax numbers as those of the city editor, and e-mail address: iyambot@inquirer.com.ph.

Filipino made it again!

GRACE GALINDEZ-GUPANA, Vice President and owner of ABS Gen Herbs Int'l Corp. and Grace Power Herbs Inc.

Grace recently launched the latest invention on natural health product at the Natural Product Expo West, Anaheim California, USA.

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Recent studies have shown that the rind or pericarp of mangosteen contains not just tannins that make mangosteen resistant to insects. The pericarp of Mangosteen is full of antioxidants like catechins, inulin and xanthones. Believe it or not, mangosteen has numerous scientific studies that validate the folkloric and traditional uses of mangosteen. All these studies emphasize the main ingredient of the mangosteen that is Xanthone. A study in Japan has evaluates the inhibitory effect of Xanthones o Histamine, a substance responsible for hypersensitivity reactions. In the same study, prostaglandin E2, a substance known to play a role in inflammatory process, was also inhibited. This scientific mechanism could be the basis of mangosteen used by the natives of South-east Asia long before it was rediscovered. There are 49 types of xanthones and garcinones identified in Mangosteen. Some of these xanthones are known to inhibit cancer cells in vitro. In another study last 2003, six xanthones in mangosteen inhibited the growth of Human Leukemia cells.

Flint Reyes, M.D., Medical Director, GPHI

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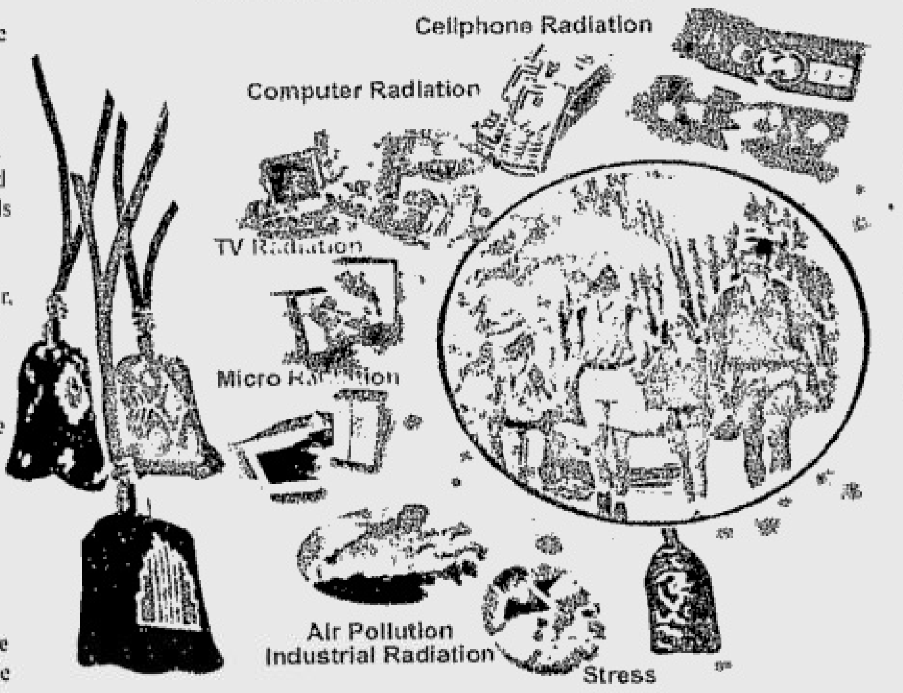

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WATCH TONIGHT! Magandang Gabi Bayan - ABS CBN, Sept. 10, 2005, Sat. 8:30 P.M.

Bulosan finally given place in America's heart

WHEN Carlos Bulosan collapsed and died in Seattle at the age of 44 in 1956, he was poor and unemployed, with none of the trappings of a famous author. He was buried in an unmarked grave.

Today, 75 years after his arrival in the United States, Bulosan's literary works – buried and forgotten during the later stages of his life – have been resurrected and are now read widely, thanks to the efforts of Asian-American scholars and the University of Washington Press.

His 1946 masterpiece, "America Is in the Heart," is one of the most widely used books in Asian-American studies classes around the world.

"It is considered the premier text of the Filipino-American experience," said Greg Castilla, a scholar and social-work supervisor who wrote his doctoral dissertation on Bulosan.

"He was a migrant worker who became a prolific writer," said Castilla.

A Bulosan tribute mural and pictorial exhibit grace the lobby of the Eastern Hotel in Seattle, where Bulosan first landed in the United States on July 22, 1930. His once-unmarked grave now has a fancy granite headstone, bought by community activists.

Bulosan was 17, an uneducated peasant boy from Pangasinan seeking a new life when he first went to Seattle. What he found was a life of backbreaking work, illness and suffering. But it also was a life of literary achievement that won accolades from an American President.

The 75th anniversary of Bulosan's arrival in the US gave those who knew him in Seattle a moment to reflect on his life.

Fred Cordova, 72, co-director of the Seattle-based National Filipino American Historical Society, knew Bulosan during the author's union organizing in the late 1940s and early 1950s, when his days as a celebrated author were behind him.

"He was a little guy, very slim, and he was always very well-dressed all the time," Cordova said.

"He was not what you'd call a charismatic speaker. He was unassuming and very quiet – a very gentle person. But he wrote like a lion," he said.

Cordova said he and Bulosan visited family homes, union halls and other gathering spots for activists. Bulosan was not that famous among the regular folks in the Seattle community, Cordova recalled.

Much of "America Is in the Heart" details the hard life of the Filipino migrant worker in the post-Depression years.

Bulosan worked up and down the West Coast in low-paying hotel service jobs, in fields, and in fish canneries. He became bitterly disillusioned, started getting involved in union organizing and taught himself to read and write. He wrote of Filipino workers putting in 12 hour-days – picking fruit, washing dishes, cutting fish and cleaning houses – for less than $1 per day. Many were exploited, beaten and robbed of their meager wages.

"I feel like a criminal running away from a crime," he wrote in one of his earlier works. "And this crime is that I am a Filipino in America."

In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt asked Bulosan to write an essay about America and its "Freedom From Want." It was published in the Saturday Evening Post along with three essays by other famous authors.

Bulosan first gained national acclaim with a book of poems, "Letter From America," published in 1942. Another poetry collection, "Voice of Bataan," came one year later. His first best seller, "Laughter of My Father," was published in 1944 and was translated into seven languages. "America Is in the Heart," was published two years later and propelled Bulosan to literary stardom.

When his star faded, he returned to Seattle to do organizing and publicity work for Local 37 of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union, now the International Longshore and Warehouse Union.

The 1970s brought a wave of ethnic awareness, and with it, a new appreciation for authors such as Bulosan.

The University of Washington Press, the caretaker of Bulosan's literary properties since 1973, first republished "America Is in the Heart" in 1974. It has had 15 printings since then and sells about 4,000 copies yearly.

Several other Bulosan titles have been published by UW Press. Last April, UW Press published its latest Bulosan book, "All the Conspirators," a mystery novel set in the Philippines. The university press has been credited with spearheading the Bulosan revival.

"Because of UW and because of Asian-American scholars who have promoted his work, Bulosan has become one of the high priests of Asian American literature," Cordova said.

Bulosan was born in the village of Mangusmana, near the town of Binalonan in Pangasinan province. He was the son of a farmer and spent most of his younger years there. At 17, he decided to go to the United States. Traveling by ship, he arrived in Seattle on July 22, 1930. With only three years of education, Carlos spoke little English and had barely any money left. He worked at various low-paying jobs, as hotel busboy, farmhand and cannery worker in Alaska. Carlos never had the opportunity to return to the Philippines. *AP*

THIS undated photo of Carlos Bulosan was provided by the National Historical Society.

(AP PHOTO/FILIPINO AMERICAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY)

His book, "America Is In the Heart," is one of the most widely used books in Asian-American studies classes around the world

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GMA choice of Southcom chief stirs military

JOAN BONDOC

ADAN: Pleasantly surprised.

BAGASIN: Unpleasantly surprised

From page A1

The controversy comes in the midst of a political crisis in which the Armed Forces plays a critical role in the survival of Ms Arroyo. The military declared it would stay neutral.

Commanding an area where Moro insurgents and communist rebels, as well as various kidnap for ransom gangs operate, Southcom is the biggest of the military's five unified commands.

The post of Southcom chief is a coveted one among generals. Many Southcom heads eventually became chiefs of staff.

Even Braganza himself seemed all set to hand over the command to Bagasin.

In the text of his prepared speech, Braganza was to have said: "I turn over the Southcom to Gen. Sammy Bagasin, a highly competent, professional and hardworking officer, who has commanded two Army Divisions and who has performed exceedingly well in breaking the backbone of the Communist Terrorist Movement in Northern and Southern Mindanao."

Braganza dropped Bagasin's name in his speech at the handover ceremony at past 10 a.m. and put in the name of Adan, instead.

It hurts

Bagasin said he had been previously informed that he would be installed as Southcom chief, and admitted he was hurt by the change in the orders.

"As a human being, there was a little frustration," he told reporters. "But this is one thing we learned from the service. We have to control our emotions, we have to control our frustrations in order to be a professional soldier, to be able to still perform our mandated mission."

Asked about the presence of his family, Bagasin said: "I just prepared my family to be around, because we heard some warning orders"—meaning an initial advisory that he was "it."

"But you see, warning orders, even in the conduct of operation, can change anytime," he said.

Asked how his family and parents felt about the sudden change, Bagasin said: "They will always understand."

"They have been, in this life for the past 32 years, with me, they will understand," he said.

General's choice

On Thursday, Lt. Col. Buenaventura Pascual, AFP public information chief, admitted that the Board of Generals had indeed recommended Bagasin to the post.

"Actually, General Bagasin was recommended by the BOG but we are still waiting for the final word or approval from the Malacañang," Pascual said.

It was late Thursday when Pascual called the INQUIRER and said that Adan, instead, would be taking over as officer in charge.

Adan and Armed Forces Chief of Staff Generoso Senga are both members of the BOG.

Senga said the military had never said or had implied that Bagasin would become the next Southcom chief.

"I do not know who gave you that impression. There are other candidates for the Southcom. General Adan is now the OIC, meaning to say there will be final determination yet of who will be the Southern Command chief," Senga said.

Senga said Adan's tenure would depend on Malacañang.

GMA's call

"It's the prerogative of the President, the Commander in Chief. But being member of BOG, we recommended him (Bagasin) but we also recommended General Adan and the rest of our senior commanders," he said.

"I am a member of the board of generals. But I cannot talk about that. It's the President who decides," Adan said, when asked why Bagasin appeared to have been sidetracked.

Braganza's prepared speech, mentioning Bagasin as his successor, helped fuel the controversy.

Adan told Zamboanga reporters that his designation as Southcom OIC was unexpected.

"Well, I did not expect it," he said. "I am not expecting my designation, an order to take over this command, but as a soldier, who had served in Mindanao for 12 years, I welcome it. It was a pleasant surprise. It's a fitting cap to a military career that started here in Mindanao."

Adan is retiring on Jan. 1, 2006.

Toning down expectations

Bagasin said that despite the frustration, he was still expecting that his appointment would be reconsidered.

"In the process of selecting a candidate, we wish that nobody gets excluded. But we should center our wishes with realities. These are the realities. We just have to abide by the decision of the chain of command," he said.

But he added that he was toning down his expectations so he would not get frustrated again.

Officials confirmed that Bagasin was the choice of the BOG, the highest policy-making body in the military, to head the military's campaign against the Abu Sayyaf and other rebel groups in Mindanao.

"General Bagasin was recommended by the board. We were just waiting for the approval from Malacañang," said an official.

Appointment that never was

But Bagasin's appointment never came.

Adan was never considered by the board for the position, some sources said.

According to the grapevine, there had been a last-ditch lobbying by Maj. Gen. Gabriel Habacon, commander of the Army's 1st Infantry Division.

Habacon was among the generals mentioned in the controversial "Hello Garci" tapes that contained alleged wiretapped conversations between Ms Arroyo and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano supposedly dealing with election cheating during the elections.

In the tapes, a man believed to be Garcillano suggested that a General Habacon still did not know much about matters pertaining to changes in election returns.

Habacon denies lobby

Habacon denied that he had lobbied to get the Southcom post.

"I don't know anything about that. That is the prerogative of the commander in chief," he said in a phone interview.

Bagasin and Habacon belong to the Philippine Military Academy Class 1973. Adan is a member of Class 1972.

Adan's designation was apparently made at the last minute since there seemed to have been an initial confusion, at least as of yesterday morning, about the nature of his appointment and the length of his assignment in Southcom.

New deputy chief

Yesterday morning, Pascual was telling reporters that Adan remained the deputy chief of staff and would only be Southcom officer in charge briefly.

"Maybe the President just hasn't made up her mind. He won't stay long [as OIC] since he has a lot of work as deputy chief of staff," Pascual said.

But in the afternoon, Pascual said Adan would serve as Southcom OIC until his retirement four months from now, on Jan. 11, 2006.

"In a week or two, a new acting TDCS (the deputy chief of staff) will be appointed. In the meantime, Vice Chief of Staff [Vice Adm. Ariston Delos Reyes] will be the acting TDCS," Pascual said.

Talking with Camp Aguinaldo reporters, Pascual would neither confirm nor deny that Bagasin was the choice of the BOG, which is composed of Senga, Delos Reyes, Adan and the commanders of the Army, Navy and Air Force.

"I don't know the recommendation of the board. I know there's a short list. It's up to the President," Pascual said.

CBCP now denies getting cash envelopes from Pagcor

From page A1

its biannual plenary assembly in a Tagaytay retreat house since 2004, the same year it discouraged its members from accepting cash donations from legal gambling.

Coronel said he had checked with Aniceto's archdiocese in San Fernando, Pampanga, and was told that the latter was referring to Pagcor's cash donation to Imus Bishop Chito Tagle.

He said the donation was left at the Tahanan ng Mabuting Pastol in Tagaytay and went directly to the poor for Christmas. He said he did not know the amount involved, or when it was given to Tagle.

Coronel also said the distribution of the Pagcor envelopes could not have happened because the July 10 plenary was strictly off-limits to outsiders.

"There were no envelopes and [outsiders] could not have sneaked through," he said.

Archbishop Oscar Cruz, who has openly criticized fellow Church officials for accepting money from gambling, yesterday said he had no knowledge that Pagcor envelopes were distributed to bishops last July.

PCSO, too

But aside from "hard gambling" money donated by Pagcor, bishops, priests and Church groups also receive financial aid from the lotto operations of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, according to PCSO director Manuel Morato.

"It's no big deal, really. There's nothing irregular [in it]," said Morato, who served as PCSO chair and general manager during President Fidel Ramos' term.

He said Church groups saw nothing wrong in approaching the PCSO for aid "because they know the source of the money—not cheating or dirty gambling."

In Morato's estimation, the PCSO and Pagcor are "worlds apart."

"Pagcor caters to the so-called hard gambling, the reason for which it is kept inside casinos, on restricted territory," he said in a phone interview.

But lotto "falls under soft gaming, or under the category of amusement worldwide, because it is not addicting or habit-forming," he said.

According to Morato, lotto, sweepstakes and bingo are "all used even by the churches to raise funds for charity, aside from the offering of raffle tickets at a certain price for a good cause."

But Archbishop Cruz earlier denounced lotto as gambling "for the middle class with money to throw away and the time to lose."

"There is Pagcor for the wealthy and the influential ... There are 'jueteng,' 'masiao' and other illegal numbers games for the poor and the destitute. This is gambling for all people. There is gambling all over the land," the Lingayen-Dagupan prelate lamented in a statement.

'Nothing to hide'

Morato said the PCSO had always been "transparent" in its "dealings with Church people."

"We have nothing to hide," he said. "Like the Jaycees and other civic organizations, we consider the [Roman Catholic] Church a community service arm, an extension of our services."

Morato said that as PCSO chair, he had received "requests from the churches for funding of various charity projects."

"Even [the late Manila Archbishop Jaime] Cardinal Sin would call me, telling me, 'Please help San Juan de Dios [Hospital]. The same with [Ricardo] Cardinal Vidal, who would ask for help in behalf of a charity project," he recalled.

Morato said PCSO funds ranging from P100,000 or P500,000 to P1 million were released not in the Church officials' names but to "the actual beneficiaries—the institutions or groups they're trying to help."

"The funds did not go to the pockets of Church people. *Sigurado yun* (That's for certain)," he said.

Under the Arroyo administration, the PCSO practice of providing financial aid to Church charity projects continues, Morato said.

But he did not go into detail, saying: "I am only one of five directors. I know my limitations."

Cash gifts

Some bishops are being criticized for receiving Pagcor money to fund their projects for the poor.

The INQUIRER was earlier furnished a copy of a Pagcor memorandum signed by its chair, Efraim Genuino, showing the breakdown of supposed cash gifts for bishops, priests and religious organizations.

Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, CBCP president Archbishop Fernando Capalla of Davao and Aniceto were among those listed.

They have all said whatever donations they had received went directly to projects for the poor.

Bishops tell Miriam: The problem is morality

From page A1

But despite Santiago's defense of the House vote against a critical clergy—a posture that, according to Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, the President appreciated—Malacañang is not about to take on the CBCP in a verbal tussle.

However, Malacañang relayed to the bishops the same message it had given the opposition: Let's move on.

"We won't engage in a debate with different quarters, especially with the members of the Church. With the resolution of this issue, we can move forward and give our problems our undivided attention," Bunye told reporters at a briefing.

He stressed, however, that the President was not ignoring the Church's concern over the unresolved moral issues.

Resignation

Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, who is to replace Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla as CBCP president in January, said on Wednesday that the dismissal of the impeachment case rested largely on "technicalities and procedures" and did not erase doubts on the legitimacy of the Arroyo presidency.

He also said resignation remained an option for the President.

Asked to comment on the possibility of the CBCP asking the President to step down immediately, Bunye said: "We cannot prevent anybody from making such a call. This is an expression of free speech."

But he stressed that resignation was "not an option being entertained."

"[The impeachment process] has been lengthily discussed and decided in a democratic way. As far as the process is concerned, we believe this issue is terminated. It's time to move on," he added.

Bunye said an appeal by Ms Arroyo addressed to civil servants "also applied to other sectors."

In that appeal, Ms Arroyo said: "Help me be a good and just President. Let us offer our people a fresh start. Let us have a fresh start based on mutual respect, commitment, unity and teamwork."

Santiago had said the Church "should not join the divisions in society by taking one position or other in a political issue."

She said that if it did, the Church might be "violating an injunction of the Pope himself."

But Cruz said that to begin with, the senator was wrong to identify the CBCP or individual prelates as the "Church."

He said he preferred to call them "Church people," apparently referring to the Vatican II provision that defines the Church as its people, including both hierarchy and flock.

Days before Santiago aired her warning to the Church, Archbishop Leonardo Legaspi, also a former CBCP president, came out with a six-page paper titled "Reflections on the Role of Bishops in Philippine Politics."

In the paper, the Caceres prelate said it was "impossible to truly love one's neighbor without engaging in politics."

"When we confront concrete cases of cruel injustice being inflicted on men and women, our commitment to love inevitably leads us to confrontations with those who control our politics," he said, adding:

"We inevitably find ourselves challenged by the injustices we see to take a stand on public issues. Our Christian love for the poor becomes political by its own inner logic since to practice it requires the mediation of politics."

Different motives

While the Pope is largely seen as a staunch respecter of the separation of Church and State, Legaspi said he "likewise rejects a politics which is blind to moral values."

He went on to defend his fellow prelates like Cruz, who are engaged in political and social issues.

But bishops differ from politicians in terms of "motives," he said.

"Bishops do not engage in politics with the mind-set and values derived from political power plays," Legaspi said.

He added: "When Archbishop Cruz becomes deeply involved in a crusade against jueteng, he does not do so because it is a politically correct maneuver but because the demands of the Gospel to protect the poor from folly moves him."

Cruz claimed that certain politicians were actually siding or going against Church positions for their relative convenience.

Imee on disappearing act: 'Twas family decision

From page A1

get 79 signatures, even on the first day of voting in Congress. My one vote is not enough to stop the plans of the allies of President Arroyo to kill the impeachment complaint," Marcos said yesterday in a statement.

Family decision

Three days after conveniently absenting herself from the almost 24-hour plenary deliberations on the House committee on justice report, Marcos said that her absence and failure to vote was a family decision.

"The blame for the failure of this noble objective should not be heaped on me. I can no longer contribute anything more aside from my signing the complaint despite the tension between myself and my mother," she said.

Marcos added that it was common knowledge that former First Lady Imelda Marcos had long been supportive of Ms Arroyo.

She said it became even more difficult for her when the family, apart from her mother, decided to likewise support the President.

"My mother's beliefs and decisions made by the family have been a heavy burden for me, both as a daughter and as a legislator," Marcos said.

But she said nothing upon her arrival from Singapore Thursday night.

Although the Ilocos Norte representative had arrived at 8:35 p.m. Thursday, she did not emerge from the plane until half an hour later.

Marcos was holed up at the airport's east concourse, the area right after the passenger tube, asking airport officials and staff if there was any other way to leave the area without having to face media waiting for her at the end of the corridor.

Nada.

"We explained that she would have to take the normal route that arriving passengers take," MIAA assistant general manager for operations, Octavio "Bing" Lina, told reporters at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia).

The question everyone wanted to ask Marcos was: Why didn't she show up at last Monday's crucial impeachment voting at the House of Representatives?

Her House colleagues from the leftist groups claimed that her nonappearance was a result of an alleged compromise between her family and the Arroyo administration.

Supposedly, the deal was Marcos' father, the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos, would finally be interred at the Libingan ng mga Bayani. Victims of the martial law regime have strongly opposed a Marcos burial at the cemetery reserved for the country's "heroes."

A copy of Marcos' disembarkation card obtained by reporters showed that she had marked "convention" as her purpose of travel. It was not clear when Marcos left for Singapore.

Before disembarking the plane, Marcos, who was reportedly booked on an economy seat, had been tipped off by an aide that a group of journalists were waiting for her at the concourse.

Hiding

Finally, Marcos appeared—long after all the flight's passengers and crew had gone—accompanied by Lina, a couple of aides, and a handful of Public Assistance Office staff.

Marcos managed to avoid reporters by walking behind Lina and two other airport staff all the way from the tube to the area just before immigration where reporters had been waiting for her.

Where Lina went, the lawmaker followed, drawing out laughter from the journalists who watched Marcos' antics in disbelief.

Wearing jeans topped by a white shirt and a military-inspired jacket, Marcos did not answer any of the reporters' questions. Instead, she smiled and said: "*Salamat* (Thank you)." She went straight to the ramp and boarded a silver Toyota Hi-Ace van.

See you Monday

During a talk show last weekend, Marcos expressed confidence that pro-impeachment congressmen could send impeachment raps against the President to the Senate.

"See you all Monday and together, let's see what happens to the impeachment complaint versus President Macapagal-Arroyo," she said.

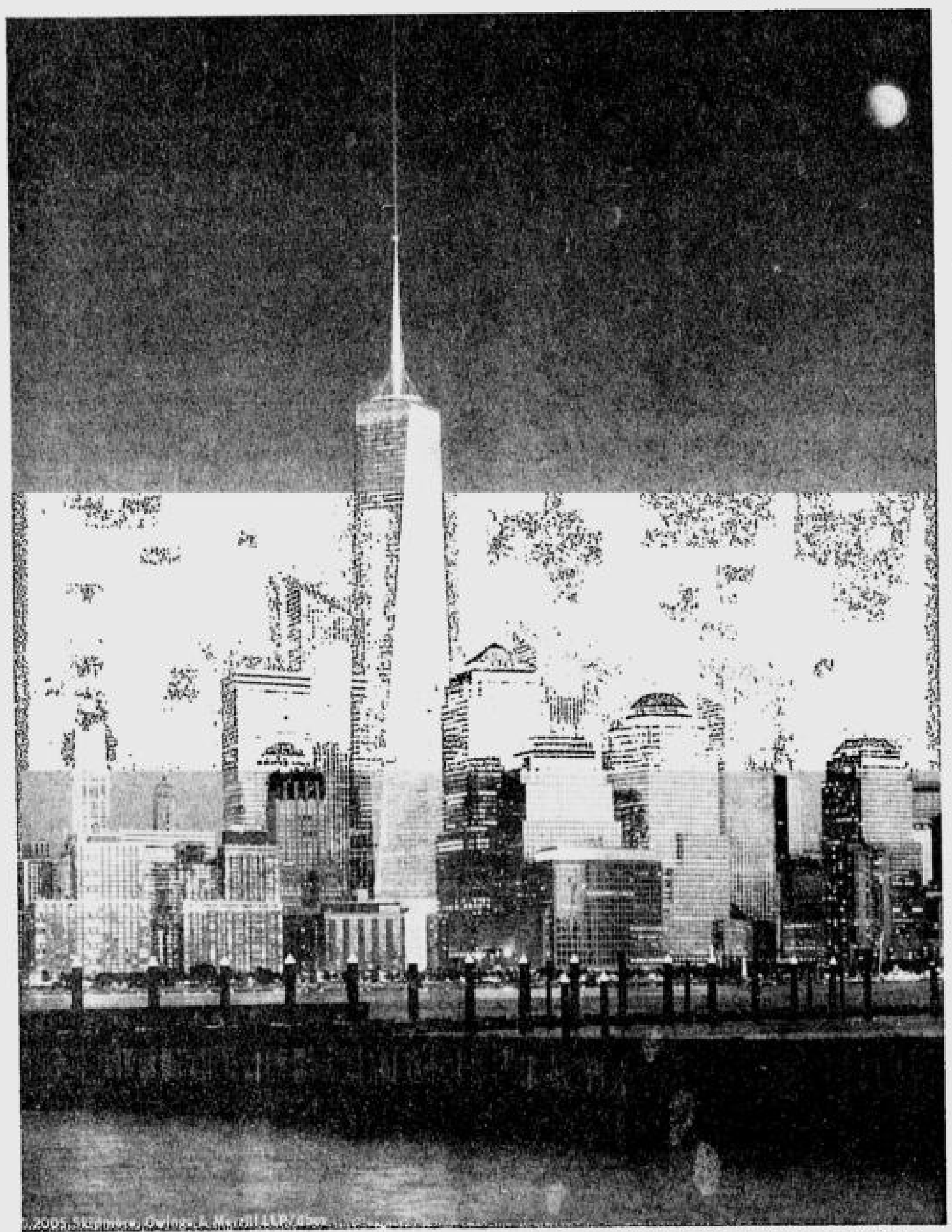
'I'm not for sale'

Marcos said she was hurt by insinuations that her decision not to vote, despite being a vocal advocate of Ms Arroyo's impeachment, was made in exchange for certain concessions for the Marcos family.

It has always been the family's wish that their patriarch, the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, be buried in the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**



A COMPUTER-GENERATED rendering, released by the Lower Manhattan Development Corp. on June 29, 2005, of the redesigned Freedom Tower rising above the lower Manhattan skyline. AP

Unlike 9/11, Katrina has brought division in US, observers say

By Darlene Superville

WASHINGTON—THE EXTRAORDINARY showing of national and political unity displayed after the tragedy of Sept. 11, 2001, is missing now that Hurricane Katrina and her deadly winds have subsided, leaving behind an earthly disaster as catastrophic as the terrorist attacks themselves.

Finger pointing and blame games have replaced the images of stunned Americans rallying around President George W. Bush and of Congress members from across the political spectrum lined up after the 9/11 attacks for a symbolic singing of "God Bless America" on the steps of the Capitol.

The two events are similar in terms of the amount of devastation wrought—possibly thousands of deaths, billions of dollars (euros) in structural damage and many, many lives turned upside down.

But it is the differences, observers say, that explain why a majority of the public and some lawmakers have rushed to criticize Bush's response to Katrina and the flooding and subsequent evacuation of New Orleans.

Andrew Kohut, director of the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, says the post-9/11 sense of unity was mostly a response to Americans feeling attacked by an external enemy.

"The biggest difference here," he said, "is we don't have an enemy to focus our anger on."

Daniel Laufer, who studies the public's response to crises, said the desire to place blame is natural, but that it's harder for people to make a scapegoat of a faceless intangible such as Mother Nature, as opposed to a real person like Osama bin Laden, mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks.

"That's a face you can point to, Bin Laden," said Laufer, who teaches marketing at the University of Cincinnati. "A hurricane, Mother Nature, the environment, that is not something people want to blame."

Two-thirds of the public, according to the latest Pew poll, and lawmakers from both of the main US political parties blame Bush, who is one face for a federal government they say was too slow to respond. Another face is Michael Brown, the nation's disaster relief director who some lawmakers say should resign or be fired.

The federal government, in turn, has blamed both state and local officials.

In contrast, Bush's approval ratings shot up past 90 percent in the weeks after the terrorist attacks.

After 9/11, "there was a surge in patriotic feeling which had to do with being in a common boat," political psychologist Stanley Renshon says. While Hurricane Katrina horrified everyone, it directly damaged a particular region and not the nation as a whole.

"It's not the story of one guy on the top and how he'll respond to an unprecedented attack on the American national community," says Renshon, who teaches at the City University of New York. "This is a story about the layers of government that are supposed to be effective and wind up having lots of difficulties doing what they're supposed to do."

Hence, the blame game. *AP*

Americans give record amounts for Katrina victims

WASHINGTON—AMERICANS ARE OFFERING unprecedented aid in the wake of Hurricane Katrina—at least $587 million dollars—initially outpacing relief for the Sept. 11 attacks and the Asian tsunami, charitable groups said.

As of early Thursday, American donations had totaled $587 million, according to the Chronicle of Philanthropy, a newspaper that tracks charitable contributions.

The Chronicle said that in the 10 days after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, Americans had donated $239 million to charitable causes, and that in the first nine days after the tsunami hit, donations totaled $163 million.

However, the total amount of US charitable contributions linked to Sept. 11 eventually topped $2.2 billion and those for the tsunami have hit nearly $1.3 billion, according to the newspaper.

For Katrina, US corporations had provided well over $200 million of the overall relief total, according to the Chronicle.

The donations from Americans are in addition to the $1 billion in cash and material goods from 45 countries accepted so far, according to the State Department.

Largest response

"This is the largest response to a single natural disaster in the 125 years of the American Red Cross, and there's no doubt it will set many records in terms of the length and expanse of the operation," said Joe Becker, senior vice president of the organization.

A fund set up by former US presidents George Bush and Bill Clinton have raised some $60 million in private funds.

Many people are giving through Internet portals like Yahoo, which collected $52 million as of Thursday. Amazon.com, which was using links from Google, was a conduit for at least $10.7 million in aid.

Among the major corporate donors, Exxon Mobil has pledged $7 million and is matching contributions by employees and retirees. Chevron has committed $5 million.

The Chronicle said the largest corporate contribution was from Wal-Mart ($17 million), and noted that the foundation established by Wal-Mart's founding Walton family donated another $15 million.

The Lilly Endowment, created by the pharmaceutical group, donated $10 million each to the Red Cross and the Salvation Army.

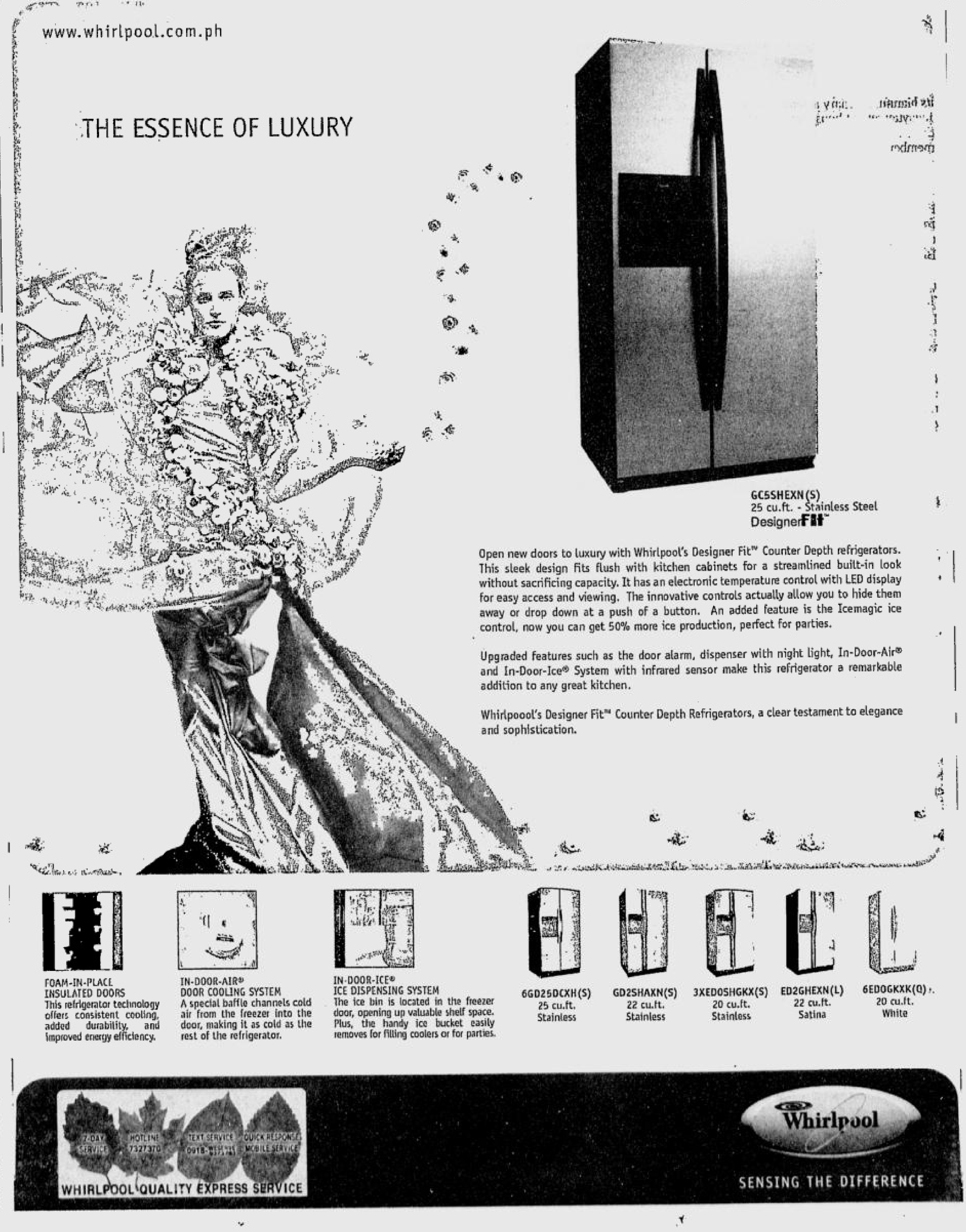
Hollywood director Steven Spielberg and his family said they are donating $1.5 million, breaking a tradition of anonymous gifts. Hip-hop star Jay-Z has pledged $1 million to the Red Cross.

John Grisham, the novelist, and his wife have given $5 million to a fund they established to help recovery efforts in Mississippi, where he grew up.

The sports world has kicked in as well. The New York Yankees gave $1 million to the Salvation Army relief fund.

Stephon Marbury, a member of the New York Knicks basketball team, said he was donating between $500,000 and $1 million to relief efforts.

Television host Oprah Winfrey contributed one million dollars to America's Second Harvest for food and grocery products from several area retail stores. *AFP*



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Yushchenko sacks Ukraine gov't over corruption

KIEV—UKRAINE'S PRESIDENT Viktor Yushchenko sacked his government on Thursday as the team which led the "Orange Revolution" less than a year ago broke apart amid infighting and accusations of mass graft.

Yushchenko, who had promised to stamp out the corruption widespread under his long-serving predecessor Leonid Kuchma, told a news conference he would ask regional governor Yury Yekhanurov, 57, to form a new team.

Yushchenko said by sacking Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko's Cabinet he wanted to give a fresh start to an administration swept to power in mass protests last year that has since failed to meet supporters' heady expectations.

But the move could set the stage for a standoff between Yushchenko and the charismatic Tymoshenko, a key figure in the revolution who heads her own party, when Ukraine votes in a parliamentary election in March 2006.

"These people remain my friends. It is very difficult but today I must remove this Gordian knot," Yushchenko said, accusing his outgoing government of lacking team spirit.

"I set one task for the new team—to work in a united team. I do not want any more the intrigues between two or three people that were determining the state policy."

Some analysts said they hoped Yekhanurov, a low-key technocrat and Yushchenko loyalist, would bring discipline to Ukraine's economic policy, which under Tymoshenko was characterized by public rows and inconsistency.

In sacking Tymoshenko, whose fiery oratory brought thousands out on the streets in last December's pro-Western "Orange Revolution," Yushchenko moved decisively to end a crisis that has threatened his credibility.

The crisis follows months of tension between Yushchenko and Tymoshenko over Ukraine's economic direction and came to a head last Saturday when his chief of staff quit alleging deep corruption in the administration.

"We need to halt the disappointment in society and make sure that the ideals (of the Orange Revolution) are not cast into doubt," he said.

The United States played down a political crisis in Ukraine after the sacking of the government but said it was vital he speed up the pace of reforms.

"They will name a new government, they'll have elections next year and I think we just have to keep our eyes focused on the long term and not look at short-term adjustments," State Department official Kurt Volker said in Brussels.

Ukraine's neighbors Russia and Poland each said the government's sacking should not be over-dramatized.

"I am convinced that the changes do not represent a reversal of the process ... that began with the Orange Revolution," said Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski, a Yushchenko ally.

However, opponents said the crisis highlighted the gap between the ideals of the revolution and the government's performance in implementing them.

A steady drip of sleaze allegations—unproven but damaging—led some to believe the new administration was as corrupt as the one it replaced.

The graft claims even extended to Yushchenko's son who, a newspaper said, was driving a car he should not have been able to afford on his modest income.

At the same time, economic growth took a sharp downturn and inflation rose while the government's stewardship of the economy was erratic.

Analysts predict next year's parliamentary election will be hotly contested.

Following changes to the constitution, the new parliament, not the president, will choose the government.

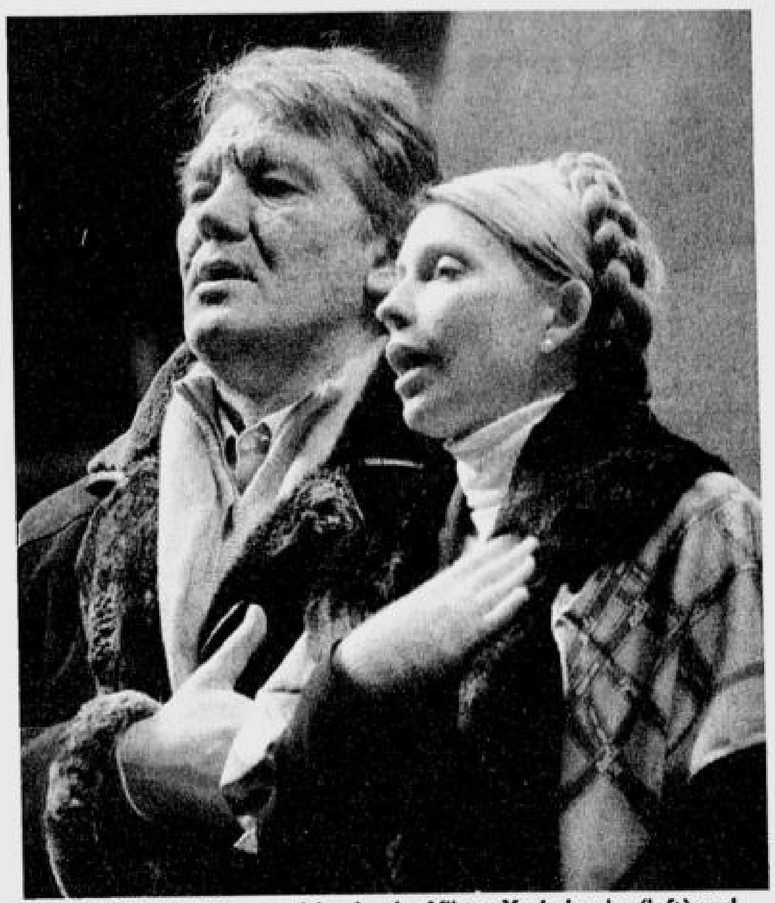
"Sacking Tymoshenko ... sets things up for a clash between Yushchenko and Tymoshenko in the March 2006 parliamentary elections, which will split the reform camp," said Tim Ash, emerging markets analyst at Bear Stearns in London.

The sacked prime minister was due to make her first public comments on Ukrainian television on Friday.

Ukraine's acting prime minister Yekhanurov had in recent months publicly chided Tymoshenko for what he said was her poor management of the economy.

He was deputy to Yushchenko while the latter was prime minister in 2000. After the "Orange Revolution" he had been governor of the industrial Dnipropetrovsk region.

He must be confirmed by parliament, where pro-Yushchenko forces do not have a stable parliamentary majority. Yekhanurov was meeting members of the old Cabinet on Thursday evening. *Reuters*



THEN UKRAINE'S opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko (left) and his top ally Yulia Tymoshenko sing the national anthem during a rally in Kiev in this Dec. 4, 2004 photo. Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko said on Thursday he was sacking the government of Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko. REUTERS

Deaths from encephalitis near 600 in India

A WOMAN holds her child who is suffering from Japanese encephalitis at a hospital in Gorakhpur, in the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, Sept. 7. AP

GORAKHPUR, INDIA—THE DEATH TOLL from an outbreak of Japanese encephalitis in northern India rose to at least 590 Thursday and one volunteer said a baby was dying every hour in the worst-hit district.

At least another 2,450 patients were battling for their lives in crowded insanitary hospital wards in Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state with 180 million people.

"The situation is very grim here in Gorakhpur. A baby is dying every hour," J.P. Sharma, head of the nongovernmental Voluntary Health Association, told AFP in the district town.

He said the final death toll may run into the thousands as many victims have gone unreported.

Nearly all those hit by the illness that erupted at the end of July in the district of Gorakhpur and spread to other areas were children.

The death toll "has risen by another 10 to 590 and 143 more children with the disease were brought to hospitals today," said V.S. Nigam, spokesperson for the Communicable Diseases Control Room in the state capital, Lucknow.

Most new deaths were reported in Gorakhpur, which has been worst hit, officials said. The illness has been reported in 25 of Uttar Pradesh's 70 districts.

In Gorakhpur's biggest hospital, BRD Medical College, 125 critically ill children were crowded two to a bed in a ward meant for 60.

Exhausted doctors raced from one patient to another in 40 degree Celsius (117 degrees Fahrenheit) heat seeking to treat victims of the mosquito-borne disease.

"If we had air conditoning we could save 25 percent more lives," said one doctor, P. Kumar, referring to a rising number of cases of dehydration in the jam-packed hospital where some 1,500 encephalitis patients were being treated.

Pigs, the original incubators of Japanese encephalitis, roamed freely inside BRD complex, sparking anger among anxious parents of ill children.

"The least they could do is to get rid of these animals," said a visibly-angry nurse Rita who uses one name.

Private organizations doled out free oxygen bottles and medicines as the state-run hospital's stocks ran low.

"We've been here since Tuesday. We've no money and the hospital has no medicines and we don't know where or how to buy drugs for my child," said a frantic Rukmini Devi.

Devi was keeping vigil at the side of her two-year-old daughter who lay unresponsive and was sharing the bed with another child suffering from encephalitis.

Symptoms of the disease, which passes from pigs to humans via mosquito bites and causes inflammation of the brain, include headaches, seizures and fever.

"There's a massive shortage of medicines. There are no doctors and hospital staff aren't turning up for work at hospitals," said Sheerav Ahmed, director of the privately funded Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group.

Health workers have criticized a lack of preventive action such as vaccination to curb the spread of the disease, endemic in the region.

Without vaccination, the fatality rate can reach 60 to 80 percent, Nikki Shinto, a disease response specialist at the World Health Organization in Geneva, said. *AFP*

Britain, France rally behind embattled Annan

UNITED NATIONS—UN CHIEF Kofi Annan sought to recover Thursday after being dressed down over the corruption-tainted oil-for-food program for Iraq, as France and Britain rallied behind him ahead of a world summit on implementing sweeping UN reforms.

The 67-year-old secretary general on Wednesday took personal responsibility but vowed not to resign after a report by an independent panel cleared him of ethical lapses but documented administration failings and evidence of corruption in the $100-billion humanitarian scheme.

The report said that member states and the UN Security Council must also share the blame and called for urgent reforms to restore the credibility and confidence of the world body, which is celebrating its 60th anniversary.

As he tried to recover from the public dressing down he received before the Security Council from panel head Paul Volcker, Annan could take comfort in expressions of support from France and Britain, two of the council's five veto-wielding members.

"France is eager to reaffirm its support for, and confidence in, Kofi Annan," foreign ministry spokesperson Agnes Romatet-Espagne said in Paris.

She said UN member states must now draw the appropriate conclusions from the report, including the need to reinforce the efficiency of UN operations.

Britain also reaffirmed its confidence in the UN chief.

"I also want to put on record the very high regard which the British government as a whole, and I personally, have for Kofi Annan, in leading and steering the United Nations through a period of great change in international relations," British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said Wednesday.

"Kofi Annan has already been instrumental in pushing forward that debate in the United Nations. I firmly support his efforts. A successful United Nations Summit next week presents the international community with a real opportunity to secure the necessary change."

Algeria's UN envoy Abdallah Baali meanwhile told AFP Thursday that he did not think Annan had been significantly weakened by the report findings.

"For some time the focus was the secretary general and the secretariat and this report shifted the attention and the blame on the Security Council," he said.

"I think honestly he can keep doing his job ... It's important for him and for us to have a good outcome at this summit," Baali said. "If we have a good outcome, if we have real reforms to be implemented in the months to come, I think the secretary general will be in a more comfortable position." *AFP*

Germany, Russia seal pipeline deal

BERLIN—RUSSIAN ENERGY GIANT Gazprom and German firms EON and BASF signed a deal on Thursday to build a $5-billion pipeline linking Russia and Germany, at a ceremony attended by President Vladimir Putin and Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder.

The North European Gas Pipeline will allow the world's largest gas reserves to be piped directly to the western European market.

But its route has enraged Poland and Baltic countries that stand to lose out on lucrative fees because it bypasses their territory.

"This is truly a historic day," Schroeder said. "I am grateful for this strategic cooperation between Germany and Russia."

The four-billion euro ($5-billion) agreement is a key plank in Schroeder's efforts to lessen Germany's dependence on oil—Russia already supplies 32 percent of Germany's energy requirements.

"Germany is securing a large part of its energy needs for decades to come thanks to Russia," Schroeder added.

Responding to the criticism from other countries, he added: "This project is not directed at anyone. But I am the German chancellor and I must defend German interests."

Putin said that Ukraine only had itself to blame if it was now worried about missing out on the benefits of the pipeline.

"A few years ago we agreed to create a gas consortium with Ukraine, Germany, France and Italy. Where are those agreements now?" he asked.

"A short time ago our Ukrainian partners informed us they did not want to pursue this partnership." *AFP*

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For further enquiries on administrative details, please email to gradstudies@ntu.edu.sg. We regret that our office may not be able to attend to telephone enquiries during the peak admission period.

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Powell calls UN speech 'a blot' on his record

WASHINGTON—FORMER US Secretary of State Colin Powell said in a television interview to broadcast Friday that his UN speech making the case for the US-led war on Iraq was "a blot" on his record.

In the February 2003 presentation to the UN Security Council, Powell forcefully made the case for war on the regime of Saddam Hussein, offering "proof" that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction.

The presentation included satellite photos of trucks that Powell identified as mobile bioweapons laboratories.

After the invasion US weapons inspectors reported finding no Iraqi nuclear, biological or chemical weapons.

"It's a blot" on my record, Powell said in an interview with ABC News. "I'm the one who presented it on behalf of the United States to the world, and (it) will always be a part of my record. It was painful. It's painful now."

POWELL holding up a vial he said could contain anthrax as he presents evidence of Iraq's alleged weapons programs to the United Nations Security Council in this Feb. 5, 2003 photo. AP

Powell spent five days at the Central Intelligence Agency headquarters ahead of the speech studying intelligence reports, many of which turned out to be false. He said he felt "terrible" at being misinformed.

He did not, however, blame then CIA director George Tenet. Tenet "did not sit there for five days with me misleading me," he said. "He believed what he was giving to me was accurate."

However, some members of the US intelligence community "knew at that time that some of these sources were not good, and shouldn't be relied upon, and they didn't speak up," Powell said.

"These are not senior people, but these are people who were aware that some of these resources should not be considered reliable," he said. "I was enormously disappointed," he added.

Powell also said that he had "never seen evidence to suggest" a connection between the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks in the United States and the Saddam regime.

As for post-Saddam Iraq, Powell said there was little choice but to keep investing in the Iraqi armed forces.

"What we didn't do in the immediate aftermath of the war was to impose our will on the whole country, with enough troops of our own, with enough troops from coalition forces, or, by (quickly) recreating the Iraqi (armed) forces," he said.

"It may not have turned out to be such a mess if we had done some things differently," he said.

Powell also voiced concern over a possible civil war in Iraq. *AFP*

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CIA leak probe may be nearing end

WASHINGTON—NEW YORK TIMES REporter Judith Miller, locked up for refusing to reveal who told her a covert CIA operative's name in a probe that may be nearing a conclusion, works part time at the jail laundry helping clean fellow inmates' green jumpsuits and dirty linens.

Between shifts at the laundry, Miller works at the library on a card catalogue of the jail's books, said attorney Floyd Abrams, offering new details about Miller's life behind bars after meeting with her on Wednesday.

Abrams, who represents The New York Times, said Miller was "safe" but that conditions in jail were "grim."

This week Miller marked two months—65 days as of Thursday—at the Alexandria Detention Center just outside Washington for refusing to testify to a grand jury trying to determine who in the Bush administration leaked CIA operative Valerie Plame's identity.

Abrams said Miller remained "resolute" and would not reveal her confidential source to a grand jury in the case, which could shake up an administration already reeling from criticism over its response to Hurricane Katrina. The probe has ensnarled President George W. Bush's top political adviser, Karl Rove.

But lawyers close to the investigation say there are signs that the 20-month-long inquiry could be wrapped up within weeks in a final flurry of negotiations and legal maneuvering.

Asked if talks were under way with special counsel Patrick Fitzgerald, a Justice Department prosecutor, to secure Miller's testimony and release, Abrams said: "If there are any discussions, they would be private."

"She is there (in jail) for a reason. At this time, the reason is still there. She made a promise and, unless properly released from her promise by her source, she has no choice but to continue to take the position that she's taking," Abrams said.

He declined comment when asked if Miller, who was sent to jail on July 6 though she never wrote an article about the Plame matter, had reached out anew to her source for a clear release from confidentiality that would allow her to testify.

Attorney Theodore Boutrous, who represents Time magazine and its reporter, Matthew Cooper, said Miller's "standoff" with Fitzgerald may be coming to a head.

"Either Fitzgerald still needs Miller or he doesn't," Boutrous said. "It's who blinks first. ... You would think something needs to happen soon, one way or another."

Unlike Miller, Cooper avoided jail by agreeing to testify after saying he received the "express personal consent" of his source to reveal his identity. The first person to tell him about Plame was Rove, Cooper said.

Plame's husband, former diplomat Joseph Wilson, said the leak was meant to discredit him for criticizing Bush's Iraq policy in 2003 after a CIA-funded trip to investigate whether Niger helped supply nuclear materials to Baghdad. *Reuters*

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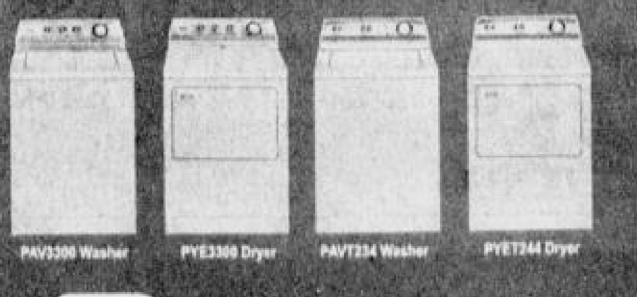

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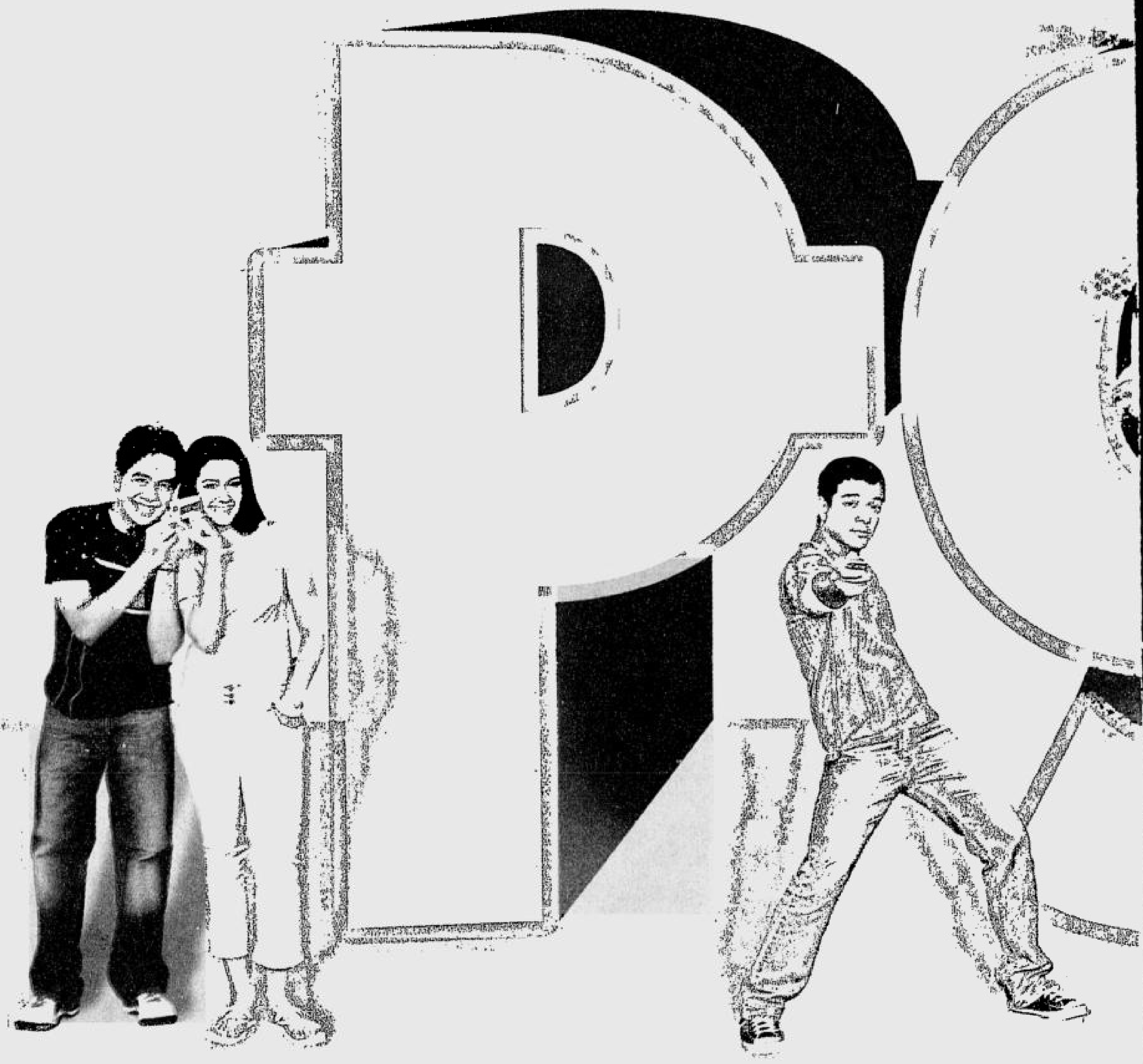

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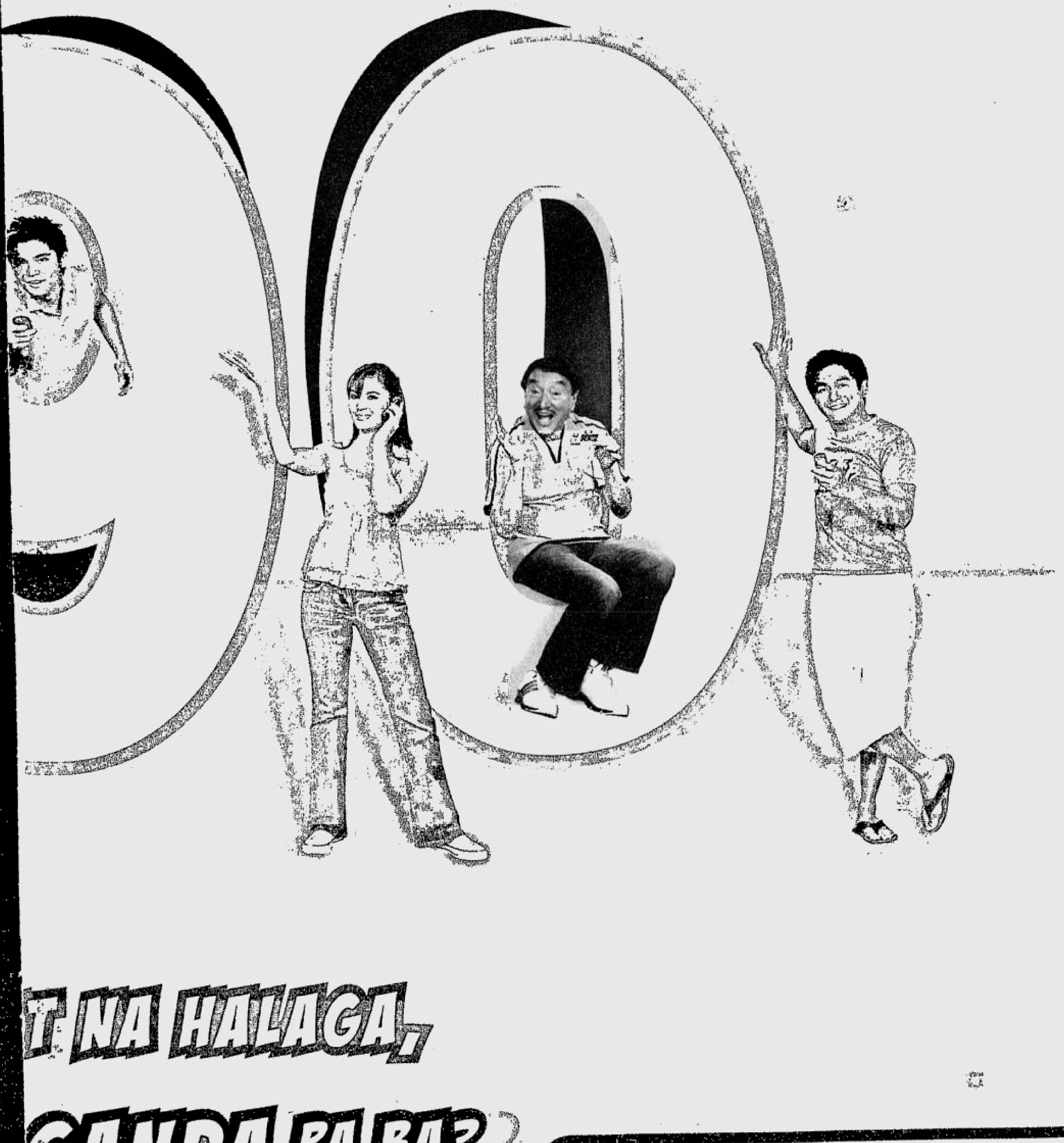

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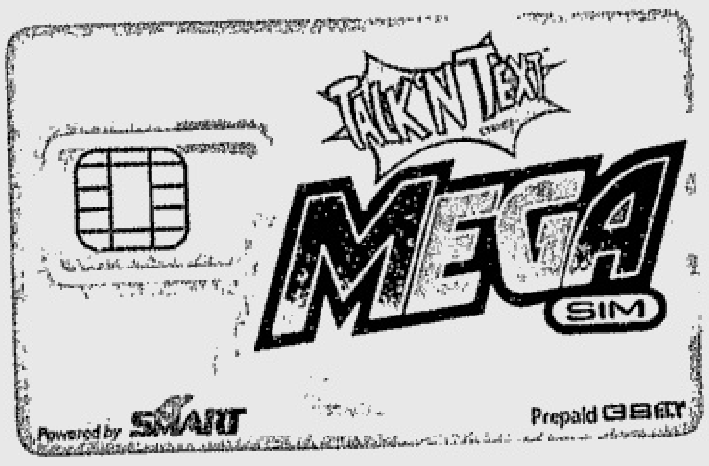
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In Katrina's wake

EDITORIAL

THE AFTERMATH OF HURRICANE KATRINA HAS made Americans pessimistic about New Orleans and Louisiana ever recovering from the trauma of the disaster. A recent poll said majority of Americans believe New Orleans has been irretrievably damaged by the hurricane and the flooding it caused and that residents should evacuate the city.

We don't know what the citizens of New Orleans, or for that matter, Louisiana, would say about that, but it seems despair has banished whatever shred of hope people might have that despite nature's wrath and destruction, the human spirit would prevail.

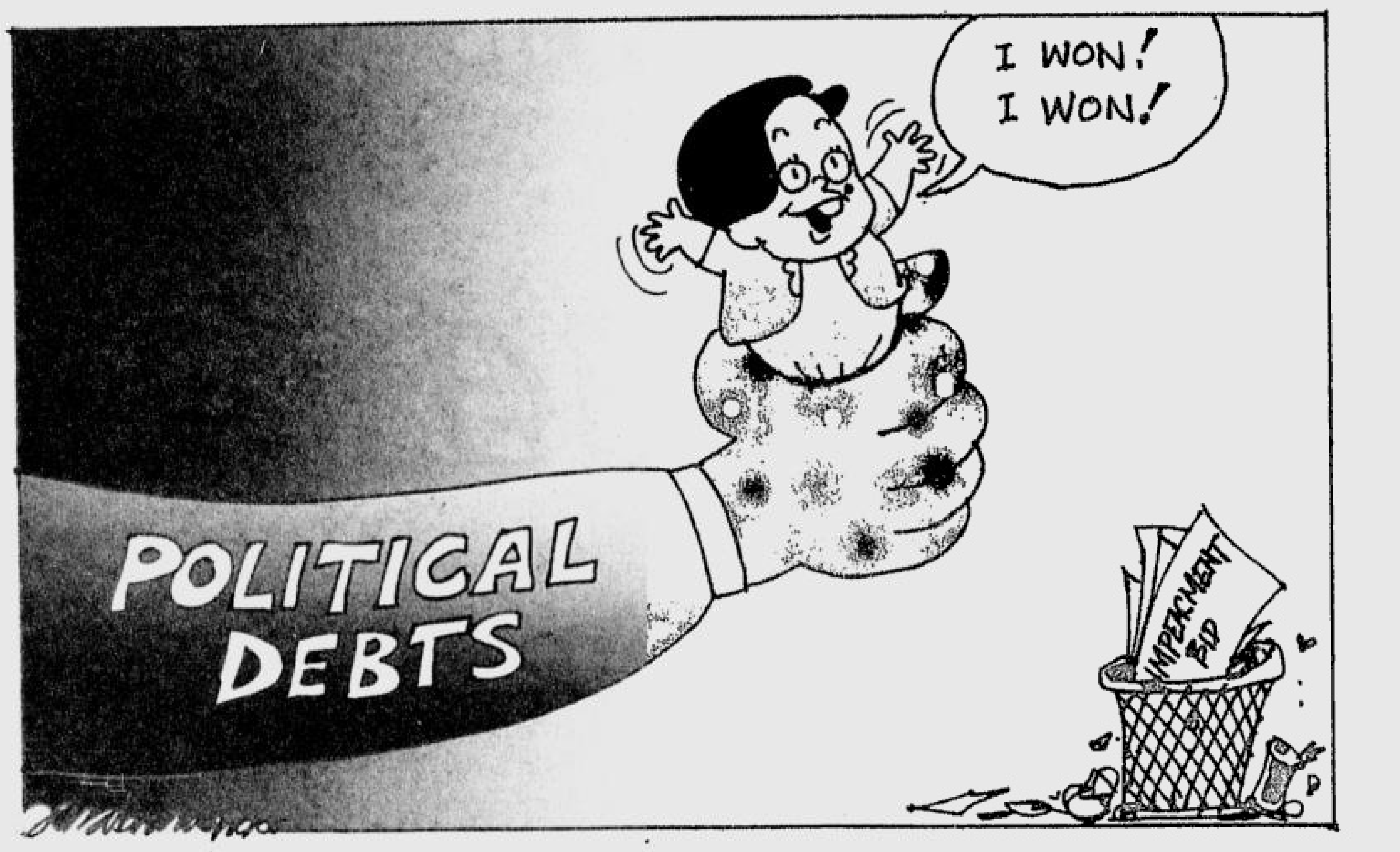
Who could blame them? The aftermath of Katrina has been a severe blow to the universal belief about human goodness. Consider:

- Unmitigated looting, carjacking and violent criminality followed the hurricane's passing. Despite the decision to increase the National Guard deployment to 30,000 and later to 40,000, the anarchy continues. Now, the looters and criminals are armed with M-16 rifles, and the federal government has ordered the deployment of Marines to stop the spiral of violence.
- Col. Henry Whitehorn, chief of the Louisiana State Police, said there have been many instances of New Orleans police officers coming from the flooded areas turning in their badges to leave the service. "They indicated that they had lost everything and didn't feel that it was worth going back to take fire from looters and losing their lives," the police chief said. A tourist from Michigan said she asked a police officer for assistance, and he told her to back off: "Go to hell! It's every man for himself."
- Several days after the hurricane, corpses still lay abandoned on the streets, as health and aid workers found it hard to retrieve them or deliver aid to the displaced because of riots and the unsafe streets. "I'm not sure I'm going to get out of here alive," said Canadian tourist Larry Mitzel. "I'm scared of riots. I'm scared of the locals. We might get caught in the crossfire."
- The disaster and anarchy seem to have brought out the worst in so many people. The body of a girl has been found to have been raped. There have been reports of assaults and rapes in the crowded evacuation centers where people are frustrated because of the lack of relief goods and other assistance. At a convention center that has been transformed into an evacuation site, an old man in a chaise longue lay dead in a grassy median as hungry babies wailed around him. Around the corner, an elderly woman lay dead in a wheelchair and another body lay beside her wrapped in a sheet. A man pointed at the woman in a wheelchair and said, "I don't treat my dog like that."

Several days after the hurricane, the local and federal governments can't seem to get their act together. The House of Representatives initiated an inquiry into the slow relief and rescue operations, but changed its mind, perhaps worried how an investigation would only allow passions to further flare up and wounds to fester. The administration of President George W. Bush is struggling to put rhyme and reason into the disaster response.

Perhaps the best response would be to inquire not only into the quality of disaster preparedness and the effectiveness of the disaster response but also the sociological and behavioral response of the disaster victims. There seems to be not only a failure of contingencies and other state responses to the emergency, but also a failing of human behavior. How else could one explain the sudden descent to seeming madness and anarchy of a people who belong to a well-off state in the most affluent country in the world? There must have been something in the terribly deadly fury of Katrina that stirred up that side of human nature that cleaves to the darkness of the primitive and the archetypal. In the end perhaps, the woeful manifestations of errant behavior may be nothing more than symptoms of trauma, the shock of a people shaken out of their wits by nature and its implacable wrath.

We Filipinos, who eat typhoons for breakfast, can only pray that the people of New Orleans and Louisiana will recover from their nightmare. Despite the failings of civil defense and disaster response, we have managed to pull through every typhoon with a sense of resignation and inevitability that basically manifests itself in the uneasy smile or laughter we make whenever a storm comes blowing in. We have survived storms and we will endure the elements. In their wake, our humanity must not only endure, but prevail.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Malicious accusation

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

I READ WITH MUCH SATISFACTION THE report last Tuesday of the compromise between the International School Manila and its local-hire faculty for the payment to the latter of the differential compensation they should receive in accordance with the decision rendered by the Supreme Court in their favor on June 1, 2000.

In International School Alliance of Educators (ISAE) v. Leonardo A. Quisumbing, 333 SCRA 13, the high tribunal reversed the decision of the respondent, as Secretary of Labor, sustaining the policy of the International School granting compensation packages to its foreign-hire faculty members that were not enjoyed by the petitioners. The Supreme Court held the discrimination to be violative of the equal protection clause in the Bill of Rights because the local-hire teachers were not given "equal pay for equal work."

On July 8, 2000, after receiving a copy of the decision, I wrote about it in this column and praised the Supreme Court, particularly Justice Santiago M. Kapunan as ponente, for upholding the rights of the petitioners on constitutional grounds. I was also elated over the nationalistic considerations that further justified the decision even if it might have discomfited Justice Quisumbing, who was then already a member of the Court.

"It is a sound and well-recognized policy that in case of doubt in any conflict between the interests of one's own people and those of foreigners, that doubt should be resolved in favor of the national," I wrote. In the view of the labor officials, "the foreign-hire teachers should be considered martyrs of a sort, to be compensated generously for the hardships they are willing to undergo in the boondocks of Forbes Park and Dasmariñas Village... Their privileged treatment here to the prejudice of our own teachers is obviously misplaced charity. Charity begins at home."

I assumed that the decision had long ago been implemented, but I was surprised when I learned early this year that its execution was still pending despite protests from the local-hire teachers. Legal maneuvers of the International School had prevented the Filipino teachers from enjoying the fruits of their victory. That is why in my column of Feb. 27, 2005, I cited the letter of Raquel David-Ching, as president of the petitioning teachers, as an example of the many cases illustrative of what I called "the plodding administration of justice" in this country.

I was especially interested in the case because of my earlier observations about it five years ago, but in a later full-page paid advertisement of the International School, which gave its reasons for the delay in its implementation of the decision, there appeared insinuations about the integrity of those "paid or unpaid" contacts of ISAE who were supporting it. My colleague Rina Jimenez-David on the opposite page and I were specifically mentioned among those who had offered "mish-mash of half-truths and false assertions" against the International School. (I got this quote from Rina's column.)

I don't pay much attention to paid advertisements and so didn't read this one although I noticed the hostile reference to Rina and me. I just took it in stride as not worthy of my further attention, but last Tuesday Rina wrote in her column that she received nothing from her observations in favor of the ISAE except two lunches and a book from some friends somehow connected with the petitioning teachers. I decided then that I should say something too lest my silence be interpreted as an admission of the malicious statements of the International School.

For its information, I do not know Ms Raquel David-Ching, who wrote me about the non-implementation of the decision they won from the Supreme Court in 2000. I have not met or even seen her, much less talked to her about the problems of the ISAE. I based my comments on their dispute with the ISM on the said decision and had no dealings with the local-hire teachers, monetary or otherwise. I received absolutely nothing from them, including thanks for my column. In fact, I got another letter sometime ago from Ms Ching, again requesting my help and even inviting me to a conference, which I chose to decline. I was nevertheless glad, to repeat, over the final settlement of their dispute with the International School.

I am not used to having my honest intentions challenged and would have simply ignored the snide remarks of the International School in its paid advertisement. Rina's own reaction made mine necessary. But if I have bothered to make this long explanation, it was not so much to defend my integrity as to chastise the International School for its indiscretion. It is supposed to teach its students candor and fair play, but it instead made those unsupported accusations against the "paid or unpaid" critics of their discriminatory policy against Filipino teachers in their own country. That was unworthy of an institution of learning dedicated to the search and not the distortion of the truth.

Strange bedfellows

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

"POLITICS MAKES STRANGE BEDFELLOWS," according to the New Dictionary of Cultural Literacy, means that political interests can bring together people who otherwise have little in common. The dictionary also explains that it is adapted from a line in "The Tempest," by William Shakespeare, "Misery acquaints a man with strange bedfellows," spoken by a man who was shipwrecked and found himself seeking shelter beside a sleeping monster.

That meaning was brought home to me in spades when I saw pictures of Cory Aquino, Risa Baraquel, Crispin Beltran, Ping Lacson, Satur Ocampo and Susan Roces in a classic *kapit bisig* (armlock), as they marched toward the Batasan Complex last Tuesday in a last bid to influence Congress to impeach the President. The three ladies share the tragedy of widowhood, of course, but otherwise the phrase "little in common" is a gross understatement, and seeing them together was quite a shock.

Maybe she's made of even sterner stuff than I already know, or I am indulging in wishful thinking, but President Cory didn't seem too happy with the company she found herself keeping. To me, she looked like someone who had tasted something unpleasant but was trying to control her reaction. And if that were the case, no one could possibly be anything but sympathetic. After all, how could one possibly want to walk with people who had called one a hypocrite and a murderer? Because that's what Beltran and Ocampo practically accused her of during the strike at Hacienda Luisita. They accused her not only of hypocrisy when she said that she was praying for its peaceful settlement, but also of murder, pinning on her the blame for the unfortunate deaths that took place.

One would think that these men would not want to walk with her either, if they really believed her to be a hypocrite and a murderer, but there they were, basking in reflected glory, benefiting from the media attention focused on her and Roces.

Along the same vein, it would not be difficult to surmise that the arrival of Lacson must have been unwelcome to Roces and her supporters, as well as to the leftist groups which constituted, judging from the banners, the vast majority of the demonstrators. In the case of Roces and her supporters, it must still be fresh in their minds that Lacson's decision to run for president when his party had already chosen Fernando Poe Jr. as their standard bearer must have been a major factor in Poe's ultimate loss to Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

(I ask the reader's pardon for going off on a tangent at this point, but it is an important one: On the basis of the results of the two major surveys in the run-up to the elections, of the exit polls conducted not only by the Social Weather Stations but by media organizations, and of the statements of the Catholic bishops who were closely monitoring the situation in their respective dioceses, it has to be clear that Ms Arroyo won last year's presidential elections; she did not steal the position. That she cheated and lied is still to be resolved, but then, cheating and lying seem endemic in the political game. And a tangent to the tangent, because it is still possible to do this now: After the 1992 elections, disturbed by charges that Fidel V. Ramos had stolen the election from Miriam Santiago, then Comelec Chair Christian Monsod allowed a panel of experts to review the results, including Comelec data. Their main finding was that there was evidence of cheating affecting both sides, but these tended to cancel one another and did not materially affect the outcome of the elections.)

Back to our main theme. To the leftists, Lacson personifies the torture and human rights violations during the Marcos regime; Lacson was a deputy of the notorious Rolando Abadilla (as documented by Amnesty International). It must have been difficult to maintain their equanimity as they marched with someone who may have tortured or killed some of their comrades.

So there they were, giving each other mutual support in the common desire to oust Ms Arroyo, when under ordinary circumstances they wouldn't touch each other with a ten-foot pole. What is ironic is that the convergence of their political interests is actually shallow compared to their major differences.

Consider: Cory, who is nothing if not sincere, seems convinced that an impeachment trial will ensure that the "truth" will come out (she may be the only one in the Black Friday orchestrated attempt to get Ms Arroyo to resign whose motives were pure). The same cannot be said of Beltran and Ocampo, who from Day 1 of Arroyo's watch, were against her—as they have been against every single president of this republic since Marcos' time, truth or no truth.

Moreover, Cory has always insisted on constitutional succession. The others couldn't care less about the Constitution, in fact they have been advocating other scenarios, in particular a transition government cum revolutionary council that would run things until all their reforms are in place, which they estimate to take 1,000 days. Presumably the members of this council will be self-selected—no elections, no coup, something like spontaneous generation.

Given the above, only the naïve can hold the belief that the ouster of Ms Arroyo through people power would make the country better off. Getting into bed with a strange bedfellow in politics may lead to similar results as getting into bed with a strange bedfellow for sex: it may have fatal consequences.

Bishops should accept House decision

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

I JOIN MANY CITIZENS IN APPEALING TO OUR bishops to accept the decision of the House of Representatives throwing out the impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo. It was a process that was fair and conducted in full view of national TV. Unfortunately, some bishops seem to fall for the opposition line that the truth about the alleged electoral fraud committed by the President has not been answered. But what is the truth?

Soon after the May 2004 elections, the bishops said that while there were "some instances of cheating and violations of election laws by political parties in their areas," these did not affect the voting in general and that "the results of the elections reflected the will of the Filipino people." But now some of them seem unconvinced about their earlier statements, mesmerized by allegations of fraud based on tampered and illegally acquired tapes. But is the truth in those tapes, whose source cannot even be proved?

What seems evident is that the small group rallying in Manila's streets is not seeking the "truth" but trying to bring down GMA and her government, in order to install their own caretaker or transitional government. This is why this group cannot accept the fact that the impeachment complaint was not sent to the Senate where a kangaroo court waited. Will the bishops be party to such injustice and destabilization of the nation?

* * *

GMA flies soon to the United Nations in New York to head the Philippine Mission in a series of historic meetings, among them the Plenary Meeting of the 60th General Assembly and the Security Council Summit. At the Security Council, GMA will preside over the third such summit of this key UN body since it was founded in 1945, attended by the leaders of the permanent member-countries (the United States, Great Britain, France, Russia and China) as well as those with rotating memberships.

This year, the Philippines, which is serving a two-year membership in the Security Council, was elected to preside over it. GMA will be the first Asian and the first woman head of state to have this singular honor. This honor is not just for her but for the country. Aside from addressing the General Assembly, she will preside over a UN meeting in support of an RP initiative on inter-faith cooperation for peace.

* * *

The concept of an interfaith dialogue was first proposed by Speaker Jose de Venecia to President George W. Bush during GMA's state visit. Since then, the RP delegation to the UN has pushed for it. In addition, JDV is expected to argue before world leaders his concept of a "major debt-reduction and debt conversion initiative" for RP and some 100 other heavily indebted countries. JDV conceived of this "second-generation debt relief program" after creditor nations condoned the debts of the world's poorest nations earlier this year.

Last April, JDV proposed to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and world leaders a debt-for-equity swap for developing nations in Africa, Asia and Latin America (representing more than 10 billion of the world's population), which could reduce poverty by half by 2015. JDV asked the creditor nations to make a significant portion of the developing nations' debts into equity investments in infrastructure and service projects, e.g., reforestation, mass housing, hospitals and health care. He made this proposal last June before the Paris Club, which immediately created a technical committee to evaluate it and with leaders of various European countries, who proved receptive.

* * *

JDV was supposed to fly to Washington, D.C. last Aug. 30 to begin his campaign at the World Bank, but the impeachment case delayed his departure. Few people know that while the voting went on last Tuesday, he escaped for two hours to host a luncheon in Makati where UN Assistant Secretary Hafiz Pasha assured him that various appointments were being arranged for him in New York. With the 158 anti-impeachment votes in his pocket, JDV left Thursday evening, in time to catch the UN session of the world's parliamentary leaders. In the next few days, he is expected to buttonhole various leaders to press his debt-relief concept. Let's wish him success as debt servicing eats up 70 percent of our budget.

* * *

Dinky Soliman complains that Manuel Morato's explanation as to why she is close to former President Cory Aquino is "gossip and intrigue." This complaint is interesting, coming from the noisiest of what Joker Arroyo calls the "kiss-and-tell gang." Morato said Soliman's father, Rizalino "Nene" Juliano, worked for many years with the Cojuangco family's sugar corporation. That item was relevant since it explains the close relationship between the two women, which, by the way, no one in the Palace seemed to know about, until Morato revealed it. What Soliman and Teresita Quintos-Deles ought to answer squarely are the charges of columnist Victor Agustin that donations were received by their two foundations from government sources.

* * *

A recent INQUIRER editorial cited a PCIJ report stating that among the "payback" for House members who had prominently participated in the anti-impeachment effort was the appointment of Nelly Favis Villafuerte, Rep. Luis Villafuerte's wife, to the Monetary Board. The inference was that she did not deserve it. Nothing is farthest from the truth, for she has a brilliant record. Nelly was valedictorian of the UP College of Law Class '58, to which her husband also belongs, and placed among the top 10 in the bar exams. She worked with the Central Bank for many years until her transfer to the Department of Trade and Industry, where she became undersecretary in charge of foreign and subsequently regional operations. An AIM graduate, Nelly taught international business/export at the AIM and Ateneo and De La Salle graduate schools and was former chair of the De La Salle Graduate School of Business. She has also authored a number of books on RP banking laws and jurisprudence.

The issue of access

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

ONE OF THE MORE CONTENTIOUS ISSUES AFfecting the global HIV/AIDS community is that of access—to health care and non-discriminatory treatment, to confidential testing and counseling and, most especially, to anti-retrovirals and other essential but expensive drugs.

The number of deaths due to HIV/AIDS has fallen dramatically in developed countries, mainly because of the development of anti-retrovirals, drugs that slow down the effects of the HIV and boost the capacity of the immune system to fight off the virus. But because these anti-retrovirals are quite expensive, they are beyond the reach of most people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) in the developing world. But it is in the developing world, in Africa and Asia most particularly, where the biggest number of PLWHA can be found. Unless and until anti-HIV medication is made available to a significant number of PLWHA, there can be no progress made in slowing down the spread of the global pandemic.

Aware of this, some governments, most notably that of Brazil, have made treatment an essential part of their HIV/AIDS policies. Officials have reasoned that offering cheap and available anti-retrovirals to PLWHA encourages them to go for testing and seek treatment, instead of going underground and, perhaps, persisting in risky behaviors that may result in more infections. The government of Brazil has in fact included the pricing of anti-retrovirals in their agenda at the World Trade Organization negotiations, winning concessions not just on prices but also on the right to produce cheaper generic versions of the expensive branded drugs.

In his meeting with the local community of PLWHA and advocates last week, Thai senator Jon Ungphakorn, this year's Magsaysay Awardee for public service, recalled how in Thailand the community successfully organized around the issue of access to care, and managed to win important concessions not just from the Thai government but also from foreign drug manufacturers.

* * *

IN 1999, recalled Ungphakorn, a coalition of HIV/AIDS groups staged a three-day sit-in at the Ministry of Health in Bangkok to demand that the government relax its stringent standards on the licensing and manufacturing of generic anti-retroviral drugs. In addition, the groups filed a suit against a multinational drug company which they accused of illegally patenting an anti-HIV drug in Thailand.

With the help of sympathetic officials and of the private sector, added Ungphakorn, they have since managed to bring down the price of anti-retrovirals. A "triple combination" of drugs is now available to people who have tested positive for HIV at $25 a month, much more affordable, though certainly still quite a burden for the poor.

What the community is now pushing, said Ungphakorn, (best known in Thailand for his early advocacy on HIV/AIDS and other health issues) is universal health insurance that would make treatment even more accessible to poor Thais. Though a health insurance policy is now in force, "it is not yet top quality and full coverage is still a long way off," said Ungphakorn.

Most recently, the Health Ministry agreed to provide anti-retrovirals to a greater number of PLWHA—from 10,000 to 50,000. Ungphakorn says that in some areas, the focus is on providing the drugs to children living with HIV/AIDS, though he says health officials have yet to come up with better, more effective formulations for children.

* * *

AS A legislator, Ungphakorn said he is now concentrating his efforts on pushing the issue of access to treatment and drugs through the Free Trade Agreement negotiations with the US government, among others. A "big coalition" of NGOs and PLWHA groups around the world has formed an "FTA Watch," he notes. A focus is the dismantling of some protections around intellectual property rights, including drug patents, through the WTO. "These make it more difficult to produce cheaper medicines," Ungphakorn pointed out, adding that it's not just anti-retrovirals that are priced beyond reach, but also basic drugs like antibiotics that PLWHA need to fight off opportunistic infections.

Compared to the progress made in Thailand to promote the right to access to treatment of PLWHA, the situation in the Philippines is much dire. Dr. Jojo Sescon (executive director of the Remedios AIDS Foundation that hosted the get-together with Ungphakorn) related that access to treatment doesn't even seem to figure in the long list of advocacies around the issue of HIV/AIDS here. "It's estimated that less than 100 Filipinos are currently on anti-retrovirals," Sescon said.

* * *

THE HIV/AIDS community in the Philippines, said Sescon, has been engaged in negotiations with the Department of Health on making anti-retrovirals more available locally. There are moves to include such drugs in the government's import list, as part of a "compassionate special order," Sescon added.

Despite this positive development, though, the picture still seems dim for the HIV/AIDS community. A Filipina living with HIV/AIDS, who's also a resident at the "Bahay Kalinga" for PLWHA at the San Lazaro compound, tearfully recounted how they have long felt neglected by authorities. She said that residents are hard put to come up with the money for basic needs like food and simple medicines (forget anti-retrovirals!) and left to fend for themselves and their housemates in the terminal stage of AIDS.

When I asked Ungphakorn how the HIV/AIDS community manages to keep public interest in Thailand on the issue, he said that they, too, are facing the same problem of low public interest and complacency. If things are bad in Thailand, you can imagine how desperate the situation is here.

Other isles and their stories

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE DISTRICT of Catanduanes, there was Masbate, an island almost triangular in shape, and Burias very near the mouth of the San Bernardino Strait that had fooled so many ship pilots so that several *naos* (galleon) had gone to watery graves. In 1601, the galleon San Geronimo, which was returning from Mexico, was so torn up and left with few surviving hands that it could hardly do more than run aground. Two months later, another galleon, which came with the *situado* (money sent from Mexico to support the colonial government) from Mexico, together with all its cargo was saved by a miracle from the shoals of this isle. Not so lucky was the Espiritu Santo when it returned in 1576 from Acapulco, again with the *situado* and the profits from the sale of merchandise. The ill-fated vessel carried many religious and other people of note who, after their long journey, landed in Catanduanes only to be killed by the natives. An old resident of the Visayas, Geronimo Albez, was spared because he spoke the language.

The whole island was surrounded by dangerous shoals, a musket shot from the beach. The sea was rough and turbulent since it was unprotected from the wind. During the rainy season, there was much rain and storms and it was impossible to navigate except from the middle of June until the middle of September. During this period, rice—of which there was plenty—and coconuts from which oil was made were shipped to other parts. Wax and honey in abundance was gathered from its mountains.

The island had many rivers, mines and washing places of gold in great quantity. One of them was Catandungan (from where the island derived its name). Since its area was the most populated, pacification started from this river. From here, they also found 2,000 men to work on the galleons, ship carpenters who made very light boats and brought them in a peculiar manner to sell in the region. (Catanduanes had great forests near the water since most of it was mountainous.)

A big boat was constructed without cover or nails or ligatures and, depending on the size of its hold, they made another that fit in its hollow and, inside that, another boat and another until at last in one large vessel they loaded a dozen or more that were called by various names like *biroco, virey, barangay,* and *binitan*. When they arrived in Caliraya, Balayan and Mindoro or wherever they intended to sell them, hundreds of leagues from where they were made, they brought out the smallest and later the rest in order. Thus where there was only one boat in the port, within an hour 10 or more were seen sailing.

The people were corpulent and painted like the Visayans. They were great sea-going men who even if their vessels overturned in the middle of the sea didn't drown as long as their boat was not wrecked. Their clothes and other necessities were brought in tubular containers of bamboo with covers and sealed in wax. These were tied to the benches of the vessel so that even if they capsized, the natives just dove into the water, disentangled the boat and re-embarked.

They wore *bahag* (loincloth) and a long shift that reached until the knee. The women were very masculine and it was they who worked the fields and fished by constructing closely grated enclosures in the mouth of rivers and creeks, where much fish was caught.

They did not drink from the rivers even if the water was clean because they did not consider it clean enough. Instead, they drank from wells that they dug in the banks of rivers.

The clothes of the women were modest and graceful. They wore them in the manner of the Visayans. The clothes were of fine *mendriñaque* (a local textile) and their *laboncillos* were like fitted pants. They used capes of the same fine *mendriñaque*; their hair caught and very well combed into a knot (Colin called it a rose) at the top of their head. On their foreheads, they wore a strip of very fine hammered gold about two fingers in width, very finely wrought and lined with colored silk. They pierced their ears thrice so they could wear three different earrings of gold. On their ankles were bracelets with bells that tinkled when they walked.

Within the *embocadero* (mouth of the strait) lay Capul and other small islets that narrow the channel and entangle the currents in such a manner that made them treacherous and brought boats to perdition. They could turn ships around two or three times with all their sails aloft.

The largest of these isles was Capul, where the soil was fertile, the weather agreeable and convenient for the inhabitants. They had a small population of peaceful people with the customs of the Visayans although they spoke a language of their own.

Eight leagues from there and away from the narrowness of the channel toward the northeast was Ticao, the last piece of land that the galleons saw on their way to Mexico when they left the Philippines. Eight leagues in size, it had a few wild inhabitants. It had a good port, drinking water and kindling wood.

Masbate which was south of Ticao and quite near it had the reputation of having rich gold mines producing 22-carat gold. Early colonizers found workshops and sets of instruments used to make jewelry. On the banks of the island, amber was found hurled by the currents of the *embocadero* that stopped there.

(Data from P. Francisco Colin, "Labor Evangelica," 1660 edited by P. Pablo Pastells, 1904)

* * *

Comments at bambiharper@yahoo.com

Walk your street

YOUNG BLOOD

Raymond Calbay

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

AS A BOY, I LEARNED TO THINK USING MY FEET. MY soles memorized the stretch and stench of Lopez Street in Quezon City: the potholes, the hollow-block walls dividing one house from the next and the unpainted, rusty corrugated roofs. The few families that had front yards set up *sari-sari* stores. But at least at night, we had a piece of the sky with the stars.

Here on Lopez Street, I used to spend lazy afternoons hunched under the makeshift basketball court with other kids in the neighborhood. Our days revolved around the nearby public market when we would buy *isaw*, and the polluted river nearby, on whose banks a local handicraft manufacturer dumped seashells it couldn't use. Sometimes we would stage foot races or simply run for no reason at all.

The last time we hung out together as a band of starry-eyed boys was about 10 years ago, shortly before Levie moved with his dad across the ocean to Seattle, USA. Levie is my uncle, being my dad's cousin, but because we're of the same age and grew up in the same family compound, we became best buddies, along with Michael, another blood uncle, who now has a McJob as he tries to complete a two-year computer course. The other boys lived in houses a stone's throw away from our compound, although some came from the *looban* across the street. At about the time we reached the age of puberty, we began to go our separate ways.

Most of us are 21 years old now, the median age of the Filipino population, and we're letting our feet decide our future. We jump at every opportunity that comes our way: driving tricycles, making aquariums for sale and repainting jeepneys. We don't care much about the evening news on TV, and I doubt if anyone of us cast his vote during the last national election. We are apolitical sweat machines, happy to chip in our share for our families' food platter and grateful to have something left for an occasional round of beer.

Tell us we've got it wrong, that we are living life on the edge, and we will laugh and snort in unison at the simple-mindedness of your understanding of our lives. Meralco men threaten our families with lawsuits for having illegal connections and put the electric meters way high up on the electric pole. This rainy season, our mothers complain about higher vegetable prices and gripes about the P2 increase in the minimum jeepney fare. There are no jobs for many of us. And some of us have illegal cable TV connections.

In my work in Makati, I deal daily with bookish yuppies who think they have all the answers for us. From my ears to my feet (now clad in rubber shoes), some of their words, like "impeachment" and "electoral fraud," fall and fail to make sense. Sometimes I want to shout at the top of my lungs: "How does it change our lives in our street?" When they start talking, I am tempted to just walk away in disgust.

I don't think Levie will ever return for good to our country, much less to our street. I don't think Michael will finish his course and find a more rewarding job. The other boys I still see now and then are carbon copies of their fathers: Joey has taken over his dad's mechanic shop; Edmar sports a reddish hair and a beer belly; the brothers JR and JP hang around the *pusoy* table; Onat just bums around. No one has sired a child yet. And I'm sure no one's afraid anymore of his screaming mother with her hair in rollers.

Walk your street, without those Nike slippers. Think with your feet and understand that certain destinations are forced upon those like us who live on Lopez Street, because they are connected to yours.

Raymond Calbay, 21, is a graduate of the University of Santo Tomas and writes for a sports magazine. He also does technical writing jobs for IT companies and still goes home to Lopez Street.

Corrupted

Joseph Dominic O. Romero

I MARVEL at how our world has developed over the centuries and how mankind has progressed from his early beginnings as a cave-dweller to become an urban yuppie. I marvel at how our world has been transformed by the evolution of language—from simple hand signals and singular grunts that turned into words and became dialects and ultimately developed into national languages.

I marvel at how the spoken—or written—word has made and broken kingdoms and dynasties. I marvel at how mankind overcame ignorance to become informed and learned. I marvel at how we have harnessed the power of information to fuel our development economically, intellectually and spiritually.

And now I marvel at our generation's stupidity as we harness that same power not to develop but to destroy utterly that which our forefathers have long strived to build. In place of a free press, we have a puppet press that is controlled and dictated to by commercialism, politicians, and/or fear. So instead of the youth learning from the media, they are being brainwashed by the media. Instead of integrity, we have scandals. Instead of straight talk, we have cheap talk. Instead of real news and public affairs programs, we have a nightly show-biz patrol interrupted by a brief segment of news. Instead of real reporters, we have "TV personalities" who don't know the difference between getting facts before reporting the news and reporting first and then supplying the evidence to fit the news reported. Instead of a press to be trusted, we now have a press we must be wary of. For all they care about are ratings, profits and anything that brings in that confounding invention of man: money.

Greed has caused our generation's decay. I am afraid that the day will come that that same greed will bring about our destruction.

The mass media have already corrupted the minds of our youth. The broadcast media, in particular, have a big influence on the *masa's* mind, for as someone in the industry has boasted, even the poorest families strive to have three things: a radio, a television set and a karaoke. No wonder that whatever the media peddle, our people buy wholesale.

TV noontime shows don't help uplift our people's lives. Instead of teaching the value of hard work and pride in improving one's lot through honest labor, they promote laziness by making people line up for game shows in the hope of winning the jackpot.

I pity all those people skipping their jobs or wasting their day lining up for a shot at P1 million or a house and lot. Some of them candidly admit that they have been going through the routine for months.

Sus Ginoo! If Filipinos showed the same tenacity in looking for jobs, the number of people mired in poverty would probably go down. But no, Filipinos proudly declare, "*Masaya na po basta magkakasama* (So long as we are together, we are happy)," or "*Diyos na po ang bahala* (God will provide)."

If only our people would be taught that poverty is not a gift of fate or of faith, but a consequence of our actions, and that laziness is never rewarded with a cool P1 million, this sorry country of ours would be a lot better.

Joseph Dominic O. Romero, 24, is a physical therapy graduate of Universidad de Sta. Isabel in Naga City and works as a copy editor in an advertising company.

'I am not that unconcerned'

I SAW THE "DEBATE" COMMERCIAL at GMA 7, advertising the debate between Mike "Braces" Defensor and Francis "Say Cheese" Escudero. I thought that this was a TV event that should not be missed.

But when "Debate" was on, I suddenly lost interest. I asked myself: What would they say that will make a difference to me? To my barangay? To my town? Province? Country? Will their debate improve my life, or the lives of Filipinos in general? Would what they say be any different from what they had earlier said on TV? At the end of the day, will the debate make the Philippines better?

I know that I should care more; that I should be less apathetic; that I should play less "Insaniquarium" and read more newspapers; that I should watch less "Friends" and watch more "TV Patrol"; that, given the present political crisis, the mounting oil prices, the worsening economy and the rising indifference of Filipinos, I should be more concerned.

Many of us said, "We will be a better country if we get rid of our foreign rulers." We did that, but our country did not really take off. Many of us said, "We will be a better country if we get rid of Marcos." Well, Marcos was overthrown but our country did not get any better. Many of us said, "We will be a better country if we get rid of Erap." Well, Erap was put behind "bars," but what do we have to show for it?

A nation in disarray yet again. In trouble countless times, we can't seem to improve. It looks like experience is the worst teacher for us.

As I write this, I realize that I am not that unconcerned; that I care; that I want things in my country to be better. Heck, I want the Philippines to be the No. 1 economy in the world, No. 1 exporter of everything, the best tourist destination in the world, the best of everything (golf courses, movies, printers, etc). In the Top 10 list of the smartest, richest, sexiest, most famous, etc. I want at least 10 of them to be Filipinos (and none of that "half this-half-Filipino" crap). I want the first persons on every planet to be Filipinos. I want the future inventors of the flying car, teleporting machine and universal interpreter to be Filipinos. On crazy interludes when the moon shines just so, I think of daring to dream that the best basketball players in the world will someday be Filipinos. As they say, it all starts with a dream.

I realize again that I'm not apathetic. I'm just afraid—afraid that everything I do, should I choose to act, will be for nothing; afraid to end up like many disappointed Filipinos, who pour their hearts and souls and bank accounts to futilely changing the country, who have not really improved anything despite an investment of blood, sweat, tears and even lives; afraid to sacrifice a lot, and not make a difference; afraid that I will fail, or more specifically, afraid that we will fail.

—BERNARD F. LOGAN,
Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan,
olrayt@gmail.com

Greed is what's wrong with the power industry

THIS IS IN REACTION TO THE column of Neil Cruz, pinpointing "greed" as the main reason for the problems of Mirant and Power One in Oriental Mindoro. (PDI, 8/8/05) Cruz hit the nail right on the head: greed is everything that is wrong with the electricity industry today.

It is "greed" when distribution utilities buy very expensive power—twice the cost of what is in the market—from their "sister" generation companies. (What is horrible about this anomalous set-up is that it is condoned and legitimized by the Energy Regulatory Commission itself, which is supposed to protect the interest of consumers.)

One such distribution company has been allowed to charge its captive customers P3.40/kWh for generation, the average between the P2.4664/kWh generation charge of the National Power Corp. and the P4.2173 generation charge of the distribution company's IPPs (independent power producers). The distributor is getting its power supply from Napocor and the IPPs.

Needless to say, in the year 2003, three of those IPPs were among the seven generation companies listed among the country's top money-makers.

—DR. BONIFACIO C. DAZO,
president, Federation of
Las Piñas Village Associations,
Las Piñas City

Manila in slumber

MOST OF US, MANILANS, lament the fact that there are no congressmen and senators representing our city, who stand out in the congressional debates on major current issues, such as *jueteng*, EVAT, Spratlys, oil hike, Charter change, population control, impeachment complaints against the Chief Justice and President Macapagal-Arroyo, etc.

It was so different during the time of Arturo Tolentino, Arsenio H. Lacson, Jose Topacio Nueno, Ambrosio Padilla, Ernesto Maceda, Titong Roces, Bading Mariño, Augusto Francisco, Hermie Atienza and Pabling Ocampo, who served and regaled Manilans with their shining performances in the old Congress, giving us, their constituents, pride and honor.

The only faint display of brilliance we could pick out from our present crop of legislators were the (1) sponsorship by Tondo II's Rep. Jaime Lopez of the Anti-Money Laundering Law, and (2) the nominal vote of Rep. Benny Abante on the EVAT bill. But nothing noteworthy of mention followed afterwards.

We, Manilans, always take pride in the line "Wherever Manila goes, the nation follows," such that we have high expectations from our congressmen and senators.

We just hope that our legislators will wake up to this.

—HUMBERTO B. BASCO,
Bo. Obrero, Tondo II, Manila

Taiwan deserves a seat in the UN

THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN) will seek to gain representation in the United Nations when the General Assembly convenes on Sept. 13 this year. For this, once again, we seek the support of all freedom and peace-loving Filipinos.

This year, 14 diplomatic allies of Taiwan have submitted two separate letters to the UN General Assembly. One letter urges the General Assembly to "ensure the representation of the 23 million people of Taiwan in the United Nations" under the UN principle of universality; while the other seeks "a proactive role by the United Nations in maintaining peace in the Taiwan Strait."

We have compelling reasons to ask for Taiwan's entry into the UN system. First of all, Taiwan is a sovereign state and a dynamic democracy. It can contribute positively to world peace and security, human rights, humanitarian affairs and economic cooperation.

On the other hand, its exclusion of Taiwan from the UN is a form of discrimination which deprives 23 million Taiwanese of their fundamental right to benefit from and contribute to the UN.

Third, Taiwan is committed to the principles of the UN Charter, international law and international cooperation, and its participation in the UN will help maintain peace, prosperity and stability in the Asia-Pacific region. We sincerely believe that allowing Taiwan to participate in the UN will benefit all mankind.

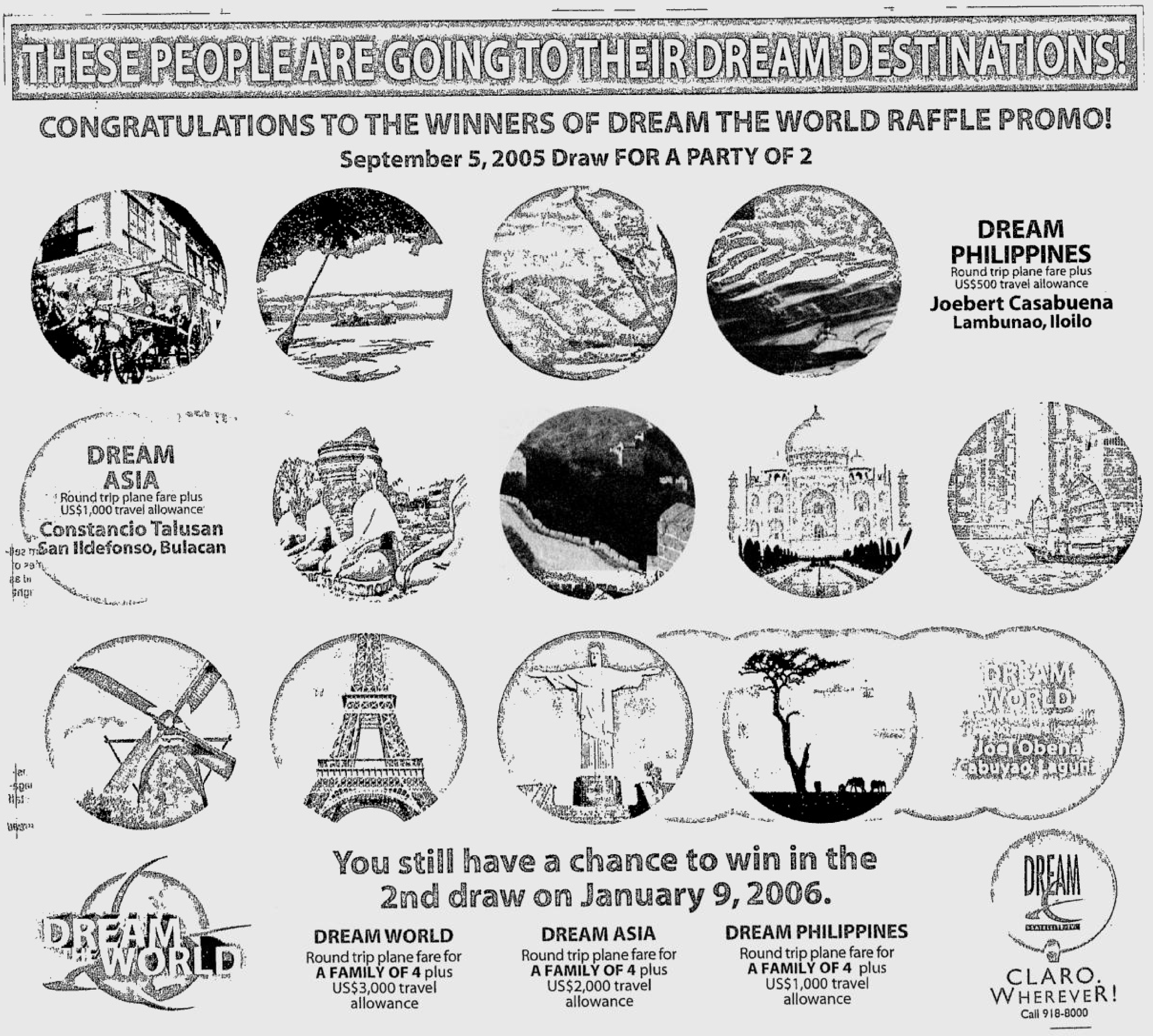
The "peace letter" requests the UN secretary general to appoint a special envoy or a fact-finding mission to evaluate the security situation in the Taiwan Strait, report to the General Assembly or other relevant bodies, and adopt necessary measures to encourage and assist both sides of the Taiwan Strait to hold peaceful dialogue and exchanges.

This "peace letter" underlines the fact that the UN Charter itself explicitly recognizes the maintenance of peace and security as a key goal. We believe that peace in the Taiwan Strait will contribute to peace, prosperity and stability in the Asia-Pacific region as a whole.

It is unfortunate that for the past 12 years, China has put up every barrier to our participation in the UN. Beijing's insistence on the "one China" policy is the source of tension and conflict in the Taiwan Strait. This ignores the fundamental reality that China and Taiwan have been ruled separately by different governments for more than 50 years.

Our minister of foreign affairs, Dr. Tan Sun Chen, has pointed out that amid current efforts to forge a "global village," Taiwan has been prevented from participation in the international arena. Taiwan's absence in the UN, according to Chen, is like a hole in the ozone layer that will have a negative impact on the entire world.

—ROBERT T.J. SHIH,
Information Division,
Taipei Economic
and Cultural Office, Makati City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500 Bataan ecozone workers laid off

By Greg Refraccion
PDI Central Luzon Desk

MARIVELES, Bataan—MORE THAN 1,000 WORKers of a Korean company manufacturing sports shoes at the Bataan Economic Zone are getting restive over the seven-month delay of their salaries.

Of the firm's 1,200 workers, about 500 have been asked to go on work leave. About 80 of them joined on Thursday the protest march around the BEZ administration building and tried to put up "kubol" or makeshift protest huts within the premises but they were prevented by the ecozone police.

The INQUIRER could not get confirmation from the Korean firm officials.

A BEZ source belied newspaper reports that 500 laid-off workers had staged a protest march inside the ecozone to dramatize their plight.

The Korean company reportedly needs around P40.5 million to pay the salaries of its 1,154 workers but a bank in Bataan has discontinued the release of money after learning that foreign market orders have not been coming in, a source said.

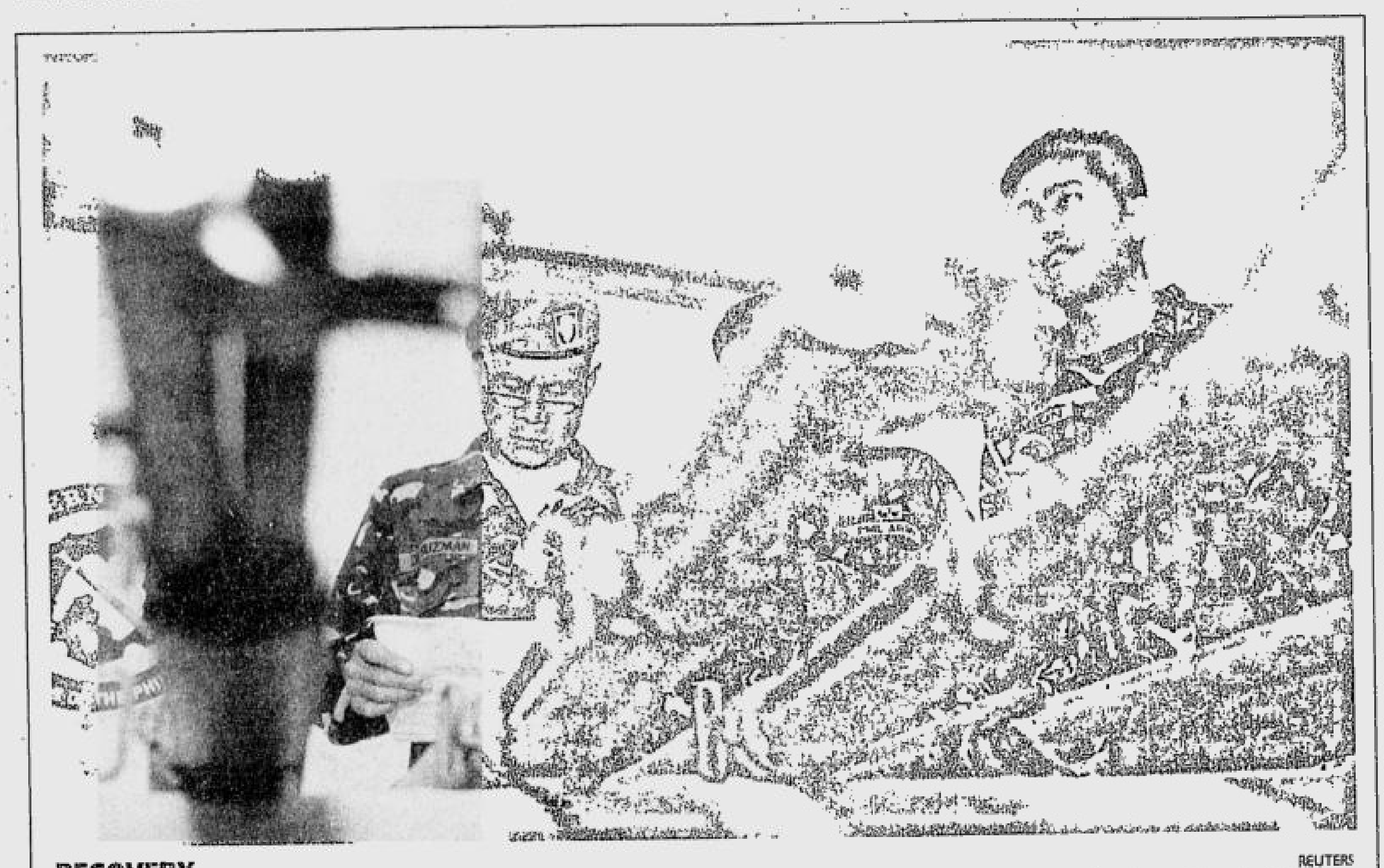
The source added that the banks are now learning their lessons when BEZ firms just closed down without paying their bank obligations.

A number of shoe manufacturing companies at the BEZ have closed shop, citing high labor cost as the main reason. Korean investors preferred China, where labor cost was twice lower than the Philippines, it was learned.

A Korean firm, the Paramount Footwear, almost closed down last month when the Philippine National Bank refused to renew its credit line.

Dante Cansino, the firm's general manager, said the PNB was finally convinced that the company had received thousands of orders from the foreign markets.

"So the bank had no recourse but to grant our request for renewal of our $500,000 credit line," Cansino said.


REUTERS

RECOVERY
Army soldiers take an inventory of firearms recovered by the military in Zamboanga City from a cave believed to be used by the New People's Army as a stockade.

Gov't allows increase in S. Mindanao bus fare

DAVAO CITY—BUS FARES IN Southern Mindanao increased following the approval by the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) of a petition by the Southern Mindanao Bus Operators Association (SMBOA).

Although the new fare schedule was supposed to take effect on Sept. 1 yet, other SMBOA members said they deferred the implementation of the new fare by up to five days to have commuters properly informed.

Based on the new matrix released by LTFRB, bus passengers would now be charged P8.50 for the first five kilometers. The succeeding distance would be charged P1.30 per kilometer.

For example, from P62 for the Davao City-Digos City route, bus passengers taking the route would now be charged P75.

Students and senior citizens continue to enjoy 20 percent discounts.

But jeep fare remains in the current level of P6.50 for the first four kilometers and P1 for every succeeding kilometer.

As this developed, jeepney operators in the region said they would join the nationwide transport strike scheduled on Monday.

Also, the Consumer Alert!, a broad alliance of consumer groups, progressive organizations, and barangay officials, said it would join the protest.

Dr. Ruben Robillo, convenor of the group, said they would call for a moratorium on oil price hikes and the scrapping of the Oil Deregulation Law, and the expanded value added tax.

The strike on Monday will be spearheaded by the Pinagisang Samahan ng mga Tsuper at Opereytors Nationwide (Piston) and the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan). *Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Anti-GMA groups in Cebu reject reconciliation

By Jhunnex Napallacan and Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—A MULTI-SECTORAL group pushing for the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo has rejected her offer for reconciliation.

"Reconciliation can be done only after she steps down," said lawyer Democrito Barcenas, convenor of Gloria Stepdown Movement (GSM), composed of some members of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan and its affiliate groups and some religious organizations.

Barcenas described the call for reconciliation as an "act of hypocrisy" on the part of the President because reconciliation must be based on justice.

But he said the people did not get justice after the House of Representatives killed the impeachment complaints after the legislators, he said, were given several concessions, including pork barrel funds.

Paul Rodriguez, president of Bayan in Central Visayas which is a member of GSM, dismissed the call of the President for reconciliation, saying her move was only adding insult to injury.

"She should first tell us the truth before she will offer reconciliation," Rodriguez said.

"If we will agree to her call, that means that we tolerated her actions and we can also be considered as cheaters," he added.

Barcenas, former IBP president in Cebu City, said he would schedule a meeting with other GSM members to discuss their plan of action.

He said he would suggest two courses of action. One was a signature campaign for the President's ouster and another a series of symposiums in different schools to discuss the political crisis in the country.

Barcenas said they would also hold street demonstrations like what the anti-Arroyo forces in Manila were doing.

An organization of drivers and operators in Negros Occidental is gearing for a transport strike next week.

Electricity rates in Clark down by 23 percent

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Power rates in this ecozone have been reduced by at least 23.6 percent from P6.94 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) to P5.30 per kWh beginning July, signaling cheaper electric costs here in the next months despite the spiraling prices of imported fuel.

Antonio Ng, Clark Development Corp. president and chief executive officer, announced this on Thursday.

Ng told business executives here that enterprises would enjoy reduced monthly billings starting in the July 26 to August 26 period.

The reduced rates would "mitigate the impact of the expanded value added tax law once implemented," he said, referring to the measure recently ruled by Supreme Court as "constitutional."

The percentage of reduced rates is not, however, fixed. This, he said, would fluctuate based on the standard pricing mechanism of the National Power Corp.

Asked how the state-owned CDC managed to bring down the cost of electricity at the 4,400-hectare main zone, Ng said: "This was a five-month negotiation, leveraging competition and taking advantage of the window of excess capacity."

"Most pivotal is the common desire among the energy family to help accelerate development at Clark," Ng said, referring to the support of Napocor, the National Transmission Corp. and the Department of Energy. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Abra townsfolk seek pullout of Army troops

BAGUIO CITY—RESIDENTS OF Baay-Licuan town in Abra have asked the government to pull out the 41st Infantry Battalion in Abra because of alleged human rights violations.

They said the latest violation was the death of Francisco Tangbawan, a farmer who was reported used by government soldiers as a human shield during an encounter with New People's Army rebels on Aug. 12 in Barangay Lenneng in Baay-Licuan.

Two of Tangbawan's companions, Diony Brillantes and Noriel Tuanquin, who were reported to have been also used as shields, were wounded from a grenade explosion.

Lt. Col. Preme Monta, spokesperson of the Northern Luzon command, said they would look into the allegation but described the report as "unbelievable."

"This has not happened. I've been a spokesperson (for the military) for so many years and I have never heard anything like that. If it is true, it is unforgivable. But still, it is unthinkable," Monta said in an earlier interview.

On Tuesday, Brillantes and Tuanquin showed their wounds to reporters.

Brillantes recalled that he and Tuanquin were at the farm when a group of NPA rebels approached them to buy a goat.

He said the rebels, however, fled when they sensed the arrival of a group of soldiers.

"Instead of going after the NPA rebels, they dragged us up to the mountain. They also dragged Tangbawan when they saw him as they exchanged fire with the rebels who ran to the other side of the mountain. This happened during a strong rain. We were terrified," Brillantes said in Ilocano.

Then a grenade blast killed Tangbawan and wounded his companions.

"I saw blood on my shirt. I told them that I was wounded. One of the soldiers said the old man (Tangbawan) was dead. We were pleading to the soldiers to let us go so we could go to the nearest hospital, but they refused. They watched us suffer," Brillantes said. *Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

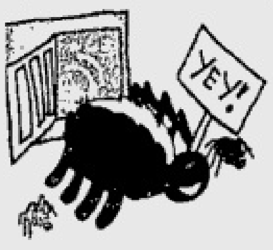
ROUNDUP

Book award

ANGELES CITY—THE BOOK "A COFRADIA OF TWO," WHICH TOLD OF the lives and contributions of the Nepomuceno couple to the making of this city, has won the National Book Award in the biography category. "Wonderful, well researched and well argued" was how the Manila Critics Circle described the 403-page book on Juan and Teresa Nepomuceno. Published last year by the Holy Angel University's Center for Kapampangan Studies, the book earlier won the Book of the Year Award from the University of Santo Tomas. Erlita Mendoza, the author, thanked the Manila Critics Circle for encouraging publications from regions outside Metro Manila. The Nepomuceno couple's partnership, founded on Catholic values, raised 10 children who excelled in various fields. The couple established several businesses that helped Angeles become Central Luzon's first chartered city in 1964.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Spare spiders, urge schools



TUGUEGARAO CITY—School officials here have asked the police to stop vendors from selling spiders, which have been used in games of pupils. Spiders are sold for as low as P5 and as much as P25 depending on their size and fighting skills. An elementary school teacher said spiders should be protected as they feed on mosquitoes and other destructive insects.

Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

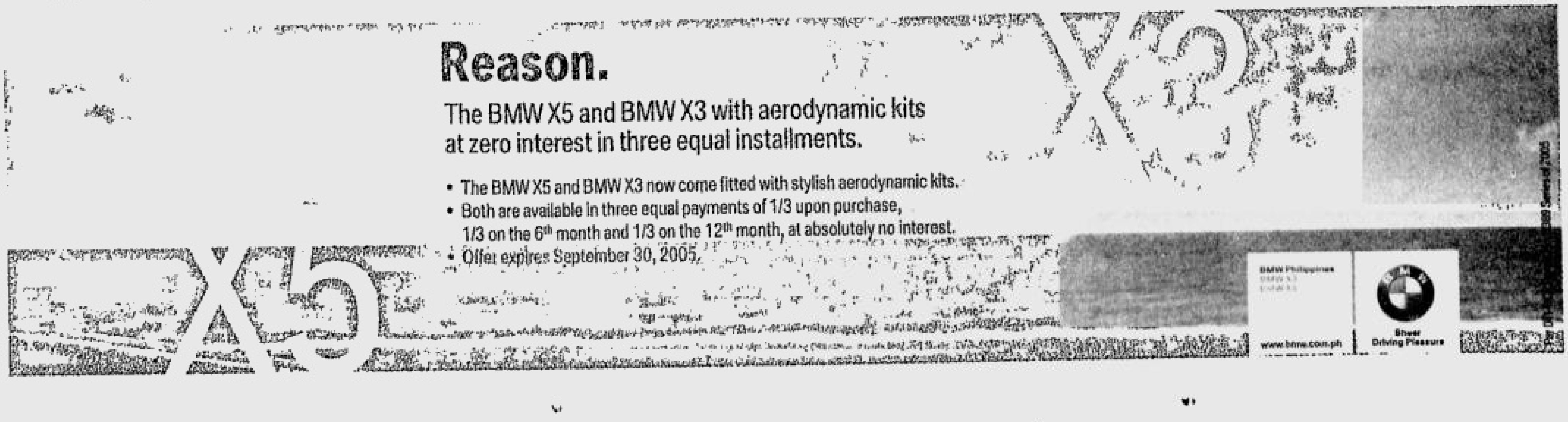
Hospital chief suspended

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Health Secretary Francisco Duque III has implemented the 90-day suspension served by a local court on the chief of the government-run Cagayan Valley Medical Center. Dr. Emmanuel Acluba, CVMC hospital chief, was suspended due to a graft complaint filed by Venancio and Susan Gammad, canteen owners, at the regional trial court here. The Gammad couple said Acluba had cornered catering services in the hospital. Acluba, who also served a six-month suspension imposed by the Ombudsman last year for several administrative cases, denied the Gammads' allegations. Duque named Dr. Eduardo Badua III, CVMC medical professional staff head, as acting hospital chief.

Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Bohol bridge inaugurated

BOHOL Gov. Erico Aumentado led over the weekend inauguration rites for a 30-linear meter Creek II bridge in Buenavista town which he viewed as a major link for the development of his province. The project was completed ahead of schedule by Austrian bridge builder Waagner Biro Philippines Inc., according to a news release. "This new bridge will increase the commerce and industry in the northeastern and inner parts of Bohol," said Aumentado. "This bridge is another landmark in the bilateral relations between the Philippines and the Republic of Austria."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INQUIRER Visayas

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

This college produces 'pandesal'

By Hazel P. Villa
San Jose, Antique

IN THE COMING MONTHS, ANTIQUEÑOS WILL see students of Advance Central College (ACC) in the capital town of San Jose trooping to the pediatric ward of the Antique Provincial Hospital mornings and afternoons to feed sickly children with freshly baked *pandesal* (bread) fortified with iron and iodine.

This was after ACC teamed up with the provincial government of Antique and the Department of Health to come up with "Pandesal-ii" (pronounced pandesali) that was launched on July 27 with the pediatric ward as pilot area.

Pandesal-ii is a nutrition program that aims to improve the status of malnourished pre-school and school-aged children in Antique after the DOH identified the province as having one of the highest prevalence of underweight children in Western Visayas and in the whole country in 2003.

"Notable is the prevalence of iodine, iron and vitamin A deficiency among children," said Rani Rodriguez, 34, a native of Antique and owner of ACC.

The Nursing Assistant and Caregiver students of ACC prepare the fortified pandesal-ii based on standards, with technical assistance from the DOH. The provincial government under Gov. Sally Zaldivar-Perez provided the start-up financial support for the program that would be running for five to eight years or until malnutrition is curbed.

Heart for the poor

How did a college get involved in public service?

ACC always had a heart for the poor, said Rodriguez who put up the college in October 1999 in answer to the impoverished province's need for quality but affordable education.

Recognized by the Technical Education Services Development Authority (Tesda), ACC was given a permit to issue certificates for the one-year and two-year short courses it offers for less than P8,000 per semester.

THESE *pandesal*, fortified with iron and iodine, are produced by the Advance Central College in Antique for the sick children of the provincial hospital. RANI RODRIGUEZ/CONTRIBUTOR

"We offer short-term courses because that's the most affordable these days. It is relevant to the Antiqueños without them turning into dancers and maids plying their trade elsewhere," said Rodriguez.

Courses that can be finished in a year are stewarding, nursing assistant, hotel and restaurant services, and caregiving. The two-year courses are computer science, computer secretarial and tourism. One can even be a caregiver in a special six-month course.

From 40 plus students in 1999, it has now more than 580 students.

The ACC is continuously improving and modernizing facilities to give quality service, said Rodriguez who has bought state-of-the art computers and cooking laboratories. The students pay a small amount but they get to use equipment like the LCD and the latest computer hardware and software.

ACC, which has teachers trained by the University of the Philippines, may be the only school in Antique that teaches the finer points of cultural diversity and offers language subjects such as French and Nihongo.

The Nihongo teacher is a Japanese who finished the required units in teaching Nihongo from Kyoto University.

Rodriguez said their training in Nihongo could increase the ACC graduates' chances of getting employment in Japan that has opened its doors to Filipino caregivers.

The International English Language Testing System (IELTS), which is taken by others on a tutorial basis prior to their getting a test, is a regular subject at ACC.

"Many in the provinces want to study, but can't afford it. P6,500 per semester may sound like easy money to some but this is not affordable for the people here," said Rodriguez.

Some of ACC's graduates like Mary Jane Agustin from Libertad, Antique who finished her one-year caregiver course is now in Canada and is regularly sending home money to her folks.

Community comes first

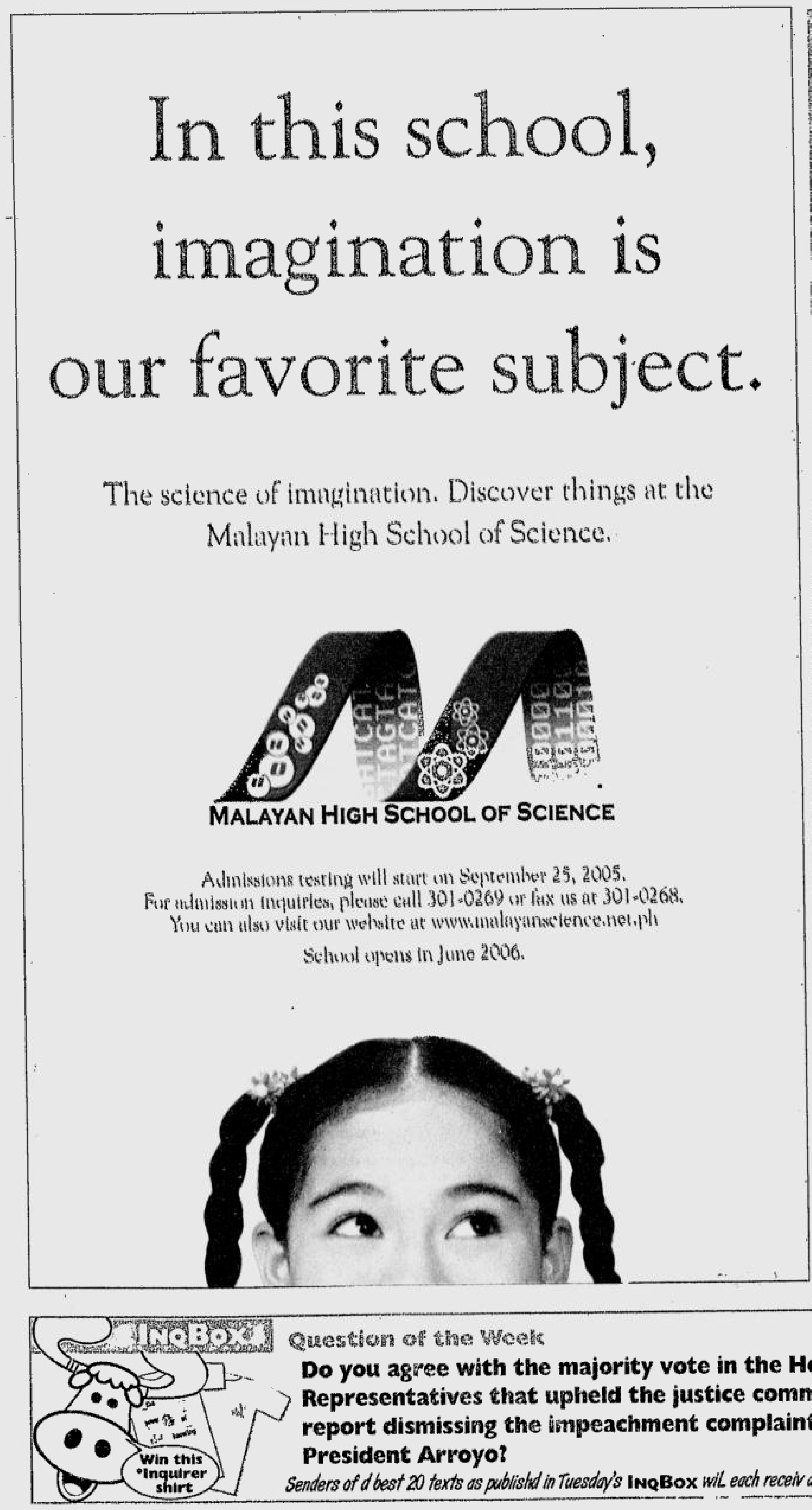
The school's aim, said Rodriguez, is two-pronged—help its students prepare for their future even as they help the province with the skills they have learned in school.

Pandesal-ii is but one of the innovations of ACC geared towards public service. ACC students also apply their skills in regular medical and dental missions, as well as first aid and disaster management trainings in communities.

"We also aim to educate the mothers and primary caregivers on how to choose nutritious foods that are cheap and available in the market," said Mary Rose, Rani's wife and likewise a UP graduate who manages ACC.

While it is undeniable that most of its graduates aim to go abroad in the long run, Rodriguez said ACC's curriculum is so designed that the students first serve their community through programs like Pandesal-ii.

"We earn income because we teach but the school is still a service-provider—public service—but not a business in that sense," said Rodriguez.



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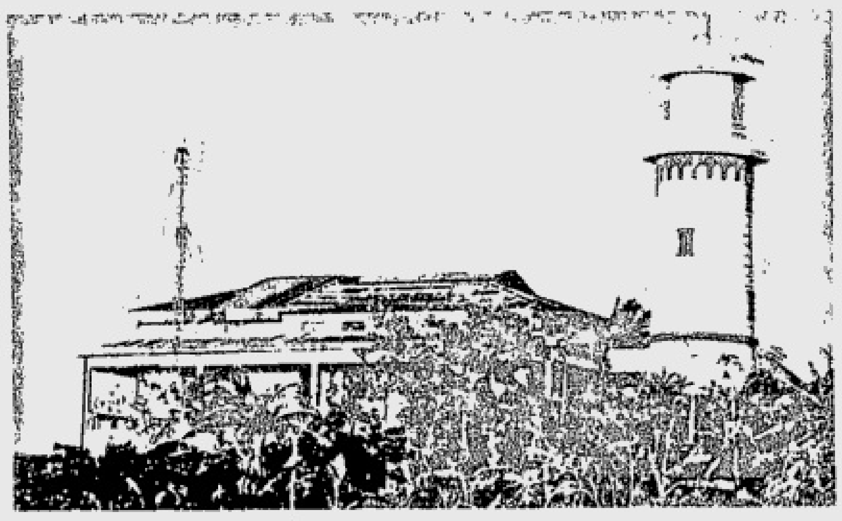


THE LIGHTHOUSE, one of the attractions in Capul island, was built in 1896.
EUGENE ARANETA

Capul: A unique island in Samar

By Eugene Araneta
Capul, Northern Samar

A COMBINATION OF FASCINATION and mystique would surely make one curious of the existence of this unique historical island called "Capul."

The island in the northwest part of Northern Samar was formerly called "Abak," after an ancient ruler from Java whose constituents were the first settlers on the island. It was changed to "Capul" (short for Acapulco) in the late 16th century, mainly because San Bernardino Strait was a frequent route or stopover of the galleon trade ships coming from Acapulco, Mexico to conduct barter trade or for ship repairs during the Spanish era.

The island appears like a grain of rice in the map, having a land area of 35 square kilometers and bounded by San Bernardino Strait that opens the eastern sea gate to the Pacific Ocean. It has a population of 12,070 spread through 12 barangays. Its principal industry is coconut farming. The lowland areas produce rice and other crops. Marine products also abound during the peak season.

Even for Samareños, Capul is truly enchanting as this is the only place in Northern Samar that speaks a dialect called "Abaknon." (Waray is the main dialect spoken in the entire Samar Island.)

This unique linguistic peculiarity alone should be enough to consider this historical island as a tourist zone. Yet there are much more in store for tourists who visit Capul.

Attractions

The Capul church, built by the Spaniards in the 16th century, signifies the birth of Christianity on the island. This structure has an 11-meter high belfry that is still intact.

The church structure was actually the third that was built. The first two structures, made of hard wood and nipa roofs, were razed when Moro pirates plundered the island in 1615 and 1768. In 1781, a Spanish architect-priest led the restoration of the church and built a stonewall fortress similar to that in Intramuros, Manila. A stone watchtower overlooking the town harbor was also erected to serve as a sentry or warning system and refuge for indigents during Moro raids.

The lighthouse in Capul is another historical landmark on the island built in 1896. It served as a beacon that enable ships or navigators to enter and pass through the treacherous San Bernardino Strait from the Pacific Ocean heading towards the ports of Manila or the Visayas. The 40-foot tower commands a panoramic view of the San Bernardino Strait extending towards the Pacific Ocean. The Naranjos Island and the province of Masbate can be seen from the south and Bulusan Volcano and the outline of Southern Luzon from the north.

A few meters downwards from the base of the lighthouse are three circular Japanese World War II gun emplacements.

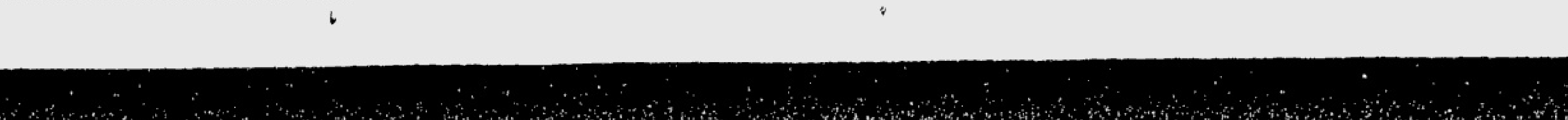
About 200 meters away from the lighthouse, down below the shorelines, is a deep giant footprint-shaped pool surrounded with rock. As the legend goes, the other pair of the footprint can be seen in the island of Cabacugan. The Big Foot is also a perfect site for family picnics or just plain sightseeing.

Caves, rock formations

Capul also boasts of a beautiful cave called "Bitò" situated in Barangay Sawang. This cave houses gigantic stalactite and stalagmite formations, which spelunkers would surely love to explore. Rumors among islanders have it that there have been several sightings at the cave of a giant python with a body size comparable with a big coconut tree.

At the Southern point of this island is a natural rock formation shaped like a rudder. Used as a diving board, it towers several feet high against a mighty cliff. Around it are white sand beaches and crystal blue-green waters with undersea coral gardens. It boasts of countless colorful and rape species of tropical fish and shells that snorkel enthusiasts and scuba divers would love to see and explore.

The local government of Capul is awaiting the passage of House Bill No. 1533 declaring Northern Samar an ecotourism zone that would most likely lead to the development of the island.



INQBOX Question of the Week

Do you agree with the majority vote in the House of Representatives that upheld the justice committee report dismissing the impeachment complaints against President Arroyo?

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Gov't credits mine firm for rehab program

BAGUIO CITY—THE GOVERNMENT has credited Benguet Corp. for introducing a superior method of rehabilitating abandoned mines when it converted these into a P2.8-billion water reservoir for this city and Itogon, Benguet, a company official reported on Thursday.

The conversion of 440 open pit mine of Benguet Corp. in Itogon into a reservoir has become a legal and social precedent for "sustainable alternatives to old mines after mine life," Leopoldo Sison, Benguet Corp. vice president for the water development program, said during a public hearing here.

Several mines, which face dissolution, are now monitoring the progress of a bulk water supply contract that was awarded in August to Benguet Corp., to help them develop similar mine rehabilitation strategies, a member of the Chamber of Mines said.

Benguet Corp., the country's oldest mining firm, has won a bid to supply the city with 50,000 cubic meters of water each day from the old 440 open pit mine, but the Baguio government has contested the project due to concerns over the potability of run-off rain water that is collected from highly mineralized land.

The firm's old mine rehabilitation program was to simply backfill the open pit mines with dirt, Sison said.

"But what's the use [of a simple backfill project]. The firm spends on a backfill, but it [does not give the mined out area] its potential for reuse. But we used [440 pit] for mining and now we are using it for water [and its] a new concept for the Philippines," he said.

Horacio Ramos, then national director of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau, approved the conversion.

"The MGB and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources are looking for rehabilitation methods that will allow new uses for old mines," Sison said.

The city council is studying the ramifications of the water supply project on mining laws.

Councilor Perlita Chan-Rondez said the decision of Benguet Corp. to convert an old mine into a new profitable venture may violate laws covering mine leases, which are equivalent to franchises.

As mining franchises, she said, only an act of Congress may convert a franchise applied to a profit industry into another profitable venture.

But Sison said the water project would not be a high profit venture. "The company looks at it more as a rehabilitation project. We want to leave the area better than how we [exploited it]. If we just backfill [440 open pit mine], we will just spend. Period. But now that there's a possibility of earning a little, then that's a better outcome of mine rehabilitation," he said.

He said the project also serves the community's water needs, which addresses the social concern of the host towns.

Benguet Corp. has ventured into a water bottling division called "Danum," and has converted some of its old tunnels into a tourist mine tour program. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

CHILDREN of slain lawyer Eugenia Vinluan-Campol at her wake in Camp 7 in Baguio City. TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Increased protection for lawyers sought

BAGUIO CITY—THE PUBLIC ATtorney's Office is conducting an inventory of high-profile cases being handled by 1,048 public defenders in the country to determine the number of lawyers at risk from election-related cases and political violence.

On Monday night, PAO lawyer Eugenia Vinluan-Campol was gunned down by two men in front of her house in Barangay Camp 7 here.

Lawyer Persida Rueda-Acosta, chief public attorney, said Campol had just been reassigned to the PAO Cordillera office from Abra where she had received death threats.

Acosta said she sent out PAO lawyers to the provinces to help people involved in political suits.

"Our enemies are prominent. They are rich," she said, to explain why PAO had urged the government to allow them to carry firearms when they were on fieldwork.

Acosta said Campol is the third PAO lawyer to be attacked in 10 months, and the second to die violently.

PAO lawyer Teresita Vidamo, PAO Las Piñas District head, was murdered in December 2004. Her family will receive for her a posthumous citation for outstanding service by the Civil Service Commission on Sept. 28, Acosta said.

PAO lawyer Armando Cabalida of Caloocan City, who was assigned a police escort, survived an ambush in April, said Salvador Hipolito, PAO Cordillera director.

Dr. Edwin Efre, PAO's only forensic expert, has coordinated with local police to establish leads that would identify Campol's attackers.

Hipolito said Campol had been handling family court cases when in the city. "But this did not warrant any threats, he said.

Acosta said Campol's services in Abra had put her in danger.

"Last year, we had [a signed agreement with Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin] Abalos for PAO to assist teachers and voters who encountered election-related cases. I assigned PAO lawyers to areas where they voted, [which is why Campol] was in Abra," she said.

Campol won several cases against Abra officials, which made her unpopular, Acosta said.

Most officials in Abra keep assassins and private armies, which have been involved in election-related violence in the province.

The Department of Interior and Local Government and the Philippine National Police withdrew Abra's police force and removed the oversight powers of all of the province's officials after a government task force confirmed that police and soldiers were being hired as bodyguards of local politicians.

Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes reinstated the Abra police in August after Abra officials signed a peace settlement.

Campol also won a civil service case against several Boliney town officials, Acosta said. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

His wealth gone, Junjie said he had become closer to God

By Hazel Villa
PDI Visayas Bureau

(Last of two parts)

ILOILO CITY—FLAMBOYANT BILLIONAIRE Fernando "Junjie" Javellana Lopez, who died at age 74 this week, was generous to a fault.

"Tito Junjie had a personal touch with people be they rich or poor. He was candid but kind," said Mian G. Zayco, whose mother Sara Gemora Zayco is a second cousin of Junjie's on the Lopez side.

Junjie, the third of six children of former Vice President Fernando Lopez Sr., was the type who would say, "I like being with the poor, with the ordinary folks. High society has illusions of grandeur," conveniently forgetting that he was high society himself.

In 2000, he transferred to the huge "Boat House," a mansion shaped like a ship owned by his uncle Eugenio Lopez Jr. in La Paz District.

By his 70th birthday on Feb. 4, 2001, he, of the Lincoln stretch limo and luxury cars, the thousands of fighting cocks, multicolored mink coats, several mansions and hundreds of pets, was wealthy no more.

Gone were the social climbers, politicians, gatecrashers, the uninvited and clamoring masses who thronged around him every time he threw wads of peso bills in the air as he did in previous birthday celebrations.

What used to be an ostentatious birthday celebration for Junjie had turned into a "simple party" and a day of meditation on vanity and the vagaries of the wealthy life gone wrong. That year, all he had was a little more than P1 million in the bank, "and some property."

Man in red

His 70th birthday was the last time he allowed the public to take a peek at his birthday celebration. The INQUIRER was there to celebrate with him. Junjie wore green pants and a loud red shirt under a red vest. His shoes were leather, and not his favorite pair that had Mickey Mouse ears jutting out.

He entertained only two groups of friends plus various individuals who went in and out his Villa home. Like his previous birthday celebrations, Junjie planned to sleep in a hotel while the party at his Villa reached its peak two hours before midnight.

But this time, instead of going to the city's top hotel, Junjie's limousine drove him to a "middle class" hotel. And unlike the previous year when men of all persuasions stayed up to midnight waiting for him to arrive hoping to curry favor from the birthday boy, there was no one at the hotel.

Junjie almost threw a tantrum because the coffee shop was already closed and the limousine had left.

"Let's walk all the way to a hotel that's open 24 hours," said a miffed Junjie. He refused to take a cab.

So off we went to the nearest top hotel, about three blocks away. Our small coterie—with Junjie in red—slowed down a few cars.

Drivers craned their necks to see if it was indeed the owner of "that limousine" walking in the dead of night in the middle of an almost-deserted street.

"*Ano, 'Noy, napierde sa bulang?* (What, you lost in the cockfight?)," asked a policeman in a patrol car that we passed by.

Junjie answered back: "*Waay a, gapahangin-hangin lang* (No, just getting a breath of fresh air)."

Closer to God

After several minutes of walking, Junjie was tired. The patrol car had been following us and the policemen asked Junjie to get in. He hopped in and was sandwiched between his security aide and a cop.

Anyone who didn't know Junjie would think he was a vagrant.

The policemen dropped off Junjie at the top hotel where at close to midnight, he ordered a round of dinner—famished by all that walking and discussions on lost wealth and vanities.

He claimed that with his wealth almost all gone, he had become closer to God. He had Bible studies in his Villa every Friday evening and had done away with vices, like gambling and betting on fighting cocks.

"I am more at peace now because I do not have to worry about maintaining dogs, horses, cars and bodyguards. I am also not as irritable or angry. Having too much wealth can be a headache," Junjie had said.

After his self-inflicted fall from financial grace, Junjie said he knew who his real friends were. And they included the policemen who escorted him back to the waiting patrol car that drove him back to his "middle-class" hotel.

On March 2, 2001, the INQUIRER again visited Junjie at his home at Villa Beach. It had been stripped bare of luxury trappings, such as bric-a-brac from abroad, dolls and other collectors' items that he dearly loved. Even some cabinets and some furniture were sold.

The luxury cars that used to line the entrance and occupied the garages were no longer there.

By then he had sold four of his huge houses in Southville, where Junjie held parties for anything he found worthy of celebrating, including the arrival of his favorite basketball stars.

Also gone were the numerous bodyguards who carried his bags, put on his shoes and did anything at his beck and call.

He admitted that he had mismanaged his finances and did a lot of browbeating over his "generosity and extreme kindness."

Alex Jimogaon, a trusted aide, claimed there was one month in 1998 when Junjie gave away a total of P8 million to people who asked him for money. Heavy withdrawals went on for almost five years and drained the coffers of Junjie, he added.

Junjie himself said he had never invested in any business unlike his cousins, the children of Eugenio Lopez Sr., his father's only sibling.

"My father has not prepared us for work and reality. He just made us sit in a corner and we had people doing things for us. But he gave us a good education," said Junjie, an agriculture graduate of Cavalier University in California.

Jimogaon added that Junjie had a long record of having been duped by people he had trusted. These ran the gamut of household help, close-in aides, "money guards," property caretakers, "friends," businessmen and close relatives.

Equal in death

Before 2001 ended, Junjie had sold his Villa House as well as his limo.

"That (limo) is my status symbol. Without it, I am nothing," he had said.

He transferred anew, this time to a staff house of the family-owned University of Iloilo in Pavia because most of his cold cash and assets were already drained from mindless spending.

His nephew Alberto III said the Lopez family foundation gave his uncle allowances and paid for his food, medicines and daily needs on top of the allowances his siblings gave him.

Like his siblings, Benito and Mita, before him, Junjie will be accorded due respect befitting a Lopez scion. He is survived by elder sister Yolanda Lopez Peña, and younger brothers, Albertito and Emmanuel.

His remains lie at the family colonial mansion in La Paz and will be cremated in Cebu City on Saturday, as decided upon by the Lopezes who did not give reasons for the cremation.

One can only imagine how Junjie himself would have wanted to go. Surely, it would be in high style and somehow, one can almost hear him say in that unmistakable raspy urgent voice, "but we are all equal in death, aren't we?"

Cory rejects Gloria's call for reconciliation

From page A1

churches in the coming days to lead prayer rallies, starting at the Bataan diocese of Bishop Soc Villegas.

Where's Garci?

Aquino said this would be on top of a signature campaign that would also be launched as her efforts to persuade Ms Arroyo to tell the truth about the various issues that had provoked the most serious political crisis to confront the administration.

"Maybe it's time to also ask GMA, '*Saan ba nandoon si Garci* (Where is Garci)?'" Aquino said at an interfaith prayer meeting in support of the 51 congressmen who backed the abortive impeachment complaints filed against Ms Arroyo.

Reaching out to citizens

"Garci" referred to former Commission on Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, whom Ms Arroyo supposedly called several times as revealed in alleged wiretapped conversations that suggested plans to cheat in the May 2004 elections.

The "Hello Garci" tapes triggered a scandal that led to the filing of the impeachment complaints in the House of Representatives.

Ms Arroyo's allies in Congress voted to quash the complaints, aborting a trial of Ms Arroyo in the Senate.

In her speech, Aquino said the proimpeachment congressmen and the "Hyatt 10" former Cabinet members who had quit the administration would also be "reaching out to the citizenry to explain the current situation."

Not destructive

"I hope our non-violent, peaceful protest is not seen as destructive but rather as a fundamental step to save our country now and in the future," she said.

Aquino added: "There have been talks about offers of reconciliation. I believe reconciliation must be based on justice founded on mutual trust and respect. However, we cannot have justice, mutual trust and respect if our efforts to attain the truth are time and time again stymied."

She said: "We have been asked what else we can do in our search for the truth. In the coming days, I will be going to various schools and churches to join our people, especially our youth, in prayer."

Suppressing the truth

The congressmen, on their part, will be going to the provinces to explain to their constituencies "the recent events that led to the suppression of truth," Aquino said.

Last night, 26 out of 51 congressmen who endorsed the complaints were honored by the Bukluran Para sa Katotohanan, a newly formed coalition of anti-Arroyo organizations.

The congressmen were feted and serenaded by admirers, who hailed them as heroes.

"You have fought the good fight," Br. Armin Luistro FSC, spokesperson of the Bukluran, told the gathering.

Quoting Mahatma Gandhi, Luistro said "A No uttered from the deepest conviction is better than a Yes merely uttered to please or, worse, to avoid trouble."

The prayer meeting, held at the cafeteria of the De La Salle Green Hills, was attended by some 1,000 people, including congressmen and their families and anti-Arroyo activists.

Among those of the Hyatt 10 who attended were former Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman, former Presidential Adviser on Peace Process Teresita Deles and former presidential adviser on anti-poverty Imelda Nicolas.

Former Defense Secretary Renato de Villa and Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay were also present.

Dick bares Subic tradeoff, threatens break with GMA

From page A1

transparency and transformational leadership," he said.

The Magsaysays are political opponents of the Gordons. Both Eulogio and Mitos voted "yes" to quash the impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo.

Gordon, who himself was earlier accused of entering into a tradeoff with the Palace after his protégé was appointed to the top SBMA post, couldn't hide his disgust over reports that the Magsaysays managed to coax the President to revoke the EO.

The Magsaysays run the Subic Bay Motors which imports second-hand cars, according to Gordon.

Proof of deal

The senator said he has proof that indeed the Magsaysays had secured a recommendation from the Palace legal office rescinding the EO, particularly a section which bans the importation of used cars into the country.

But the Palace was mum yesterday on Gordon's claims against the administration and his threat to join the anti-Arroyo forces.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye refused to make any comment, saying he did not personally hear what Gordon told the media because he was in the Cabinet meeting presided over by the President at that time.

Asked whether the Palace has any plan to repeal the EO banning the importation of right-hand vehicles into Subic as Gordon had claimed, Bunye said he had no information on this.

He instead told reporters to address their queries to the SBMA.

Licuanan resignation

SBMA director Armand Arreza, a Gordon protégé, has been appointed new SBMA administrator by the President, fueling speculations that it was a tradeoff for Gordon's vote against the impeachment of Ms Arroyo if the complaint gets transmitted from the House of Representatives to the Senate for trial.

Ms Arroyo's appointment of Arreza's reportedly prompted Francisco Licuanan III to resign as SBMA chair. Licuanan had recommended Roberto Garcia, president of automotive battery maker Ramcar, to the post.

But Gordon has denied that Arreza's appointment was a tradeoff.

A revocation of the EO, which provides for a comprehensive industrial policy for the motor vehicle development program, would virtually open the floodgates to the "smuggling" of used cars in the free port, he warned.

"I'll turn my back because that isn't right anymore. You're asking us to bring in more taxes, have people pay their taxes, but you're allowing smuggling. This is too much. How long will the people have to suffer because of that smuggling?"

The deal between the Palace and the Magsaysays on the revocation of the EO, if true, does not augur well for the country, the senator said.

Transactional

"That's not good. That's what I've been saying. We can't be transactional. We should be transformational, and not always expect that for every help the President, mayor or governor extends, there's a tradeoff," he said.

The EO's Section 3.1, which spells out the ban on the importation of used vehicles into the country, including the free ports, was declared unconstitutional by the Court of Appeals, according to reports.

"I want the Supreme Court to investigate all these judges and all the people there because it is illegal to import a second-hand vehicle that you convert. You know that, there's a law there. How can they get away with that?" Gordon asked.

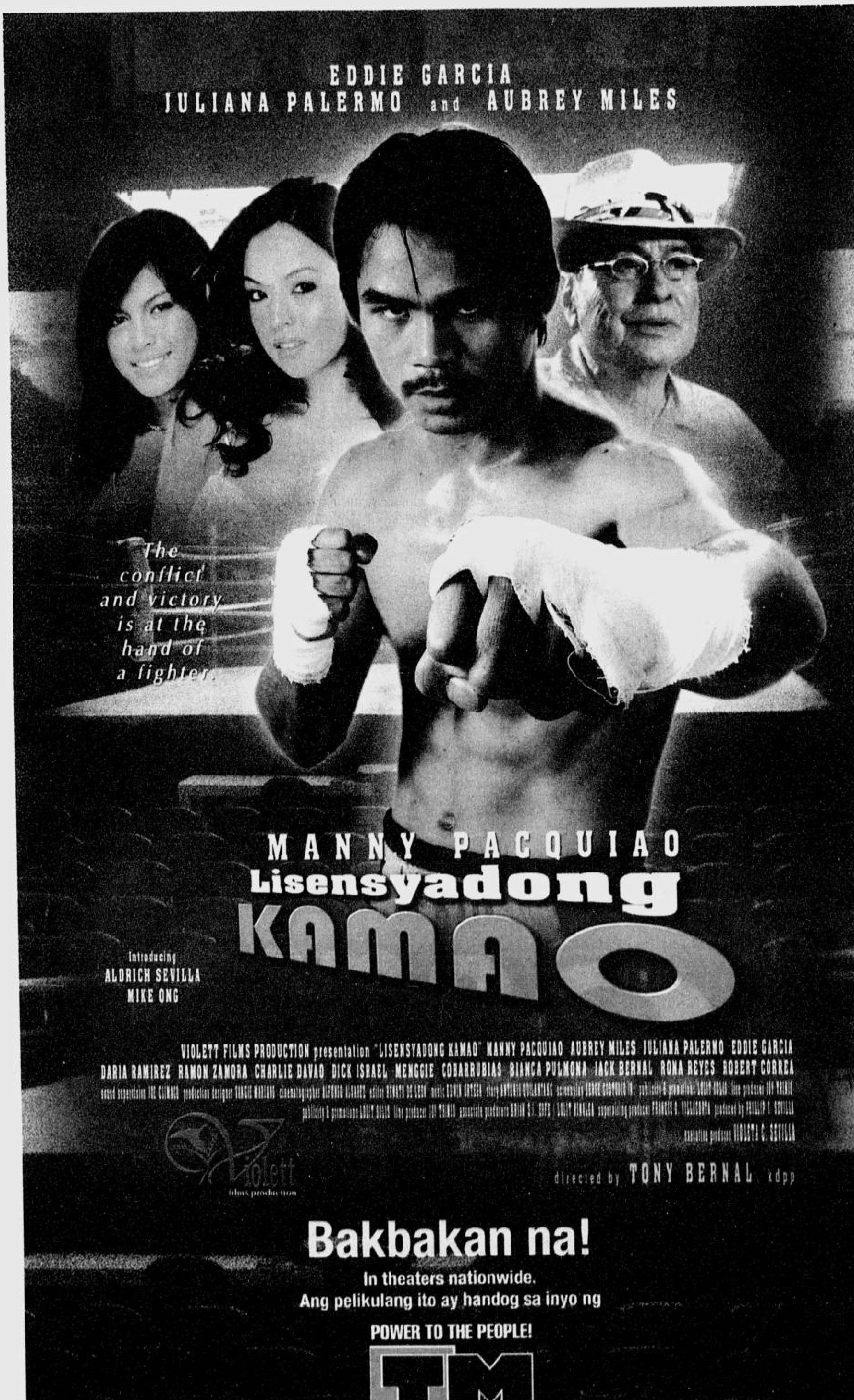
"Second, it is a violation of the environment. The fuel leaks into the ground water. Third, they're not paying the right taxes."

Gordon, whose wife Kate was defeated by Rep. Mitos Magsaysay in last year's congressional elections, stressed that his decision to go public with the Palace deal with the Magsaysays had nothing to do with politics.

No choice

"This isn't just about politics," he said, stressing that he got riled by the thought that the government was allowing the "rich people" to get away with smuggling while imposing more taxes on the poor.

Gordon admitted that he would have considered crossing over to the opposition camp if only they had a viable alternative. "We don't have a choice in the other side. That's the problem of the people," he said.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From page A1

ed in recent years.

"I don't care how my partner looks, but he should care for me."

The 22-year-old is among an estimated 50,000 to 100,000 Filipinas who have signed up to matchmaking sites, seeking romance and more importantly a ticket out of poverty.

It was a ticket that was banned under the country's 1990 Anti-Mail Order Bride Law, but anti-trafficking activists say the Internet has effectively bypassed that law despite a revision in 2003 that sought to ban e-mail order brides.

Marketing themselves as "dating sites" with exotic names such as "Asian Beauties," "Filipina Passion" and "Pacific Romance," the firms usually charge users $2 to $5 to access the profile of a woman that catches their fancy.

For an extra $30 to $50, they can become full-fledged members, and choose from hundreds, even thousands, of women.

Operators of the sites say they are providing a harmless match-making service.

"There is no such thing as a mail-order bride or mail-order bride company," said one operator who asked not to be named.

"We are a certified dating service. Women who sign up on our site do so voluntarily because they seek love abroad. We do not force them, we help them."

But anti-trafficking activists say the sites represent thinly veiled exploitation of poverty, with the power dynamics favoring the men from the start.

Some sites feature links titled "Order Now," "Check Out" or "Shopping Cart." They generally cast Asian women as submissive, obedient and loyal.

Mailorderbrides.com says of its women: "possessing useful housekeeping skills is a major source of self-satisfaction for them."

The very process of allowing men to hand-pick their partners from a sea of faces and measurements is built on the commoditization of women, said local officials from the international Coalition against Trafficking in Women (CATW).

70% Filipinos

"The term 'mail-order bride' refers to the recruitment of brides through a third party, however it is done," said Aurora de Dios, CATW executive director. "We used to do it through mail, and nowadays you do it through the Internet."

Exploitation or not, more and more women are signing up.

In a recent report, the US Immigration and Naturalization Service estimated that the number of marriages between Filipinas and American men through Internet services had doubled in the past decade, now totaling nearly 6,000 annually.

Based on a survey of different sites, it said about 70 percent of women listed in Southeast Asia were Filipinas, making it one of the world's hotspots for mail-order brides along with Eastern Europe and Russia.

Exotic dream

Activists say men who use the sites tend to fall into a predictable category, chasing the dream of an exotic Asian bride.

Many are divorced, and say that Western women are too career-focused and lack "traditional values."

"Mature men, often isolated, separated or divorced, look for companionship—all those features of women that they could not find in their own country because they were too shy or not good-looking enough," said De Dios.

"The invisibility of the Internet is very attractive to those with money."

Money is certainly flowing in the business, judging by the 200 or so sites now devoted to matching men with Filipinas.

"I think people have realized it's an extremely lucrative business," says Lucille Vonda of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas.

Abuse

Although many mail-order marriages are successful, some are unhappy or even abusive, often as a result of language or culture barriers, says Mary Soledad Perpinan of the Third World Movement against the Exploitation of Women.

Perpinan gave the example of one Filipina who was abused by her German mother-in-law.

"She missed Filipino food, but couldn't cook it in her new home. The one time she tried, her mother-in-law hit her on the head with a pan—she didn't like the way it smelled."

But for many women, the risk and adventure of online match-making may be part of the appeal.

"I didn't know what to expect when I signed up," said Angelie of Butuan City. "But it was exciting to get mail and flowers from men I had never seen." *Reuters*

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Jeep group set to strike Monday vs VAT on fuel

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE MILITANT TRANSPORT group Piston is leading a strike in Metro Manila and other parts of the country on Monday to protest the never-ending increases in petroleum prices, and to press for President Macapagal-Arroyo's resignation, the group's president said.

Piston, or the Pinagkaisang Samahan ng Tsuper at Opereytor Nationwide, is affiliated with the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU). It has more than 250,000 members nationwide and has a strong presence in northern Manila, Davao, Cagayan de Oro City , Iloilo and Pampanga.

Other groups seeking the ouster of Ms Arroyo, such as the KMU, would join the protest action, according to Piston president Mar Garvida.

But among the transport groups, only the Philippine Confederation of Drivers and Operators-Alliance of Concerned Transport Organizations, so far, had said it would join Piston, according to Garvida.

He said Piston was fed up with the government's failure to protect Filipino consumers against unceasing fuel prices, and the 10 percent expanded value-added tax or VAT, which would raise pump prices by more than P3 a liter.

Garvida chided Ms Arroyo for her statements that the Philippines could not do much to offset sharp increases in world crude oil prices because of the country's dependence on fuel.

Gasoline now costs more than P33 a liter, while diesel costs more almost P31 a liter.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, however, said that the government may suspend the collection of excise taxes and import duties to bring the net effect of the VAT on fuel prices to about P1 per liter.

Other groups, like the Federation of Jeepney Operators and Drivers Association of the Philippines or Fejodap, the Alliance of Transport Operators and Drivers Association of the Philippines or Altodap and the Makati Jeepney Operators and Drivers Association or Mjoda, signified support for Piston's objectives but declined to join the strike, said Garvida.

Vigor Mendoza, lawyer for the transport groups said the other organizations begged off as they had little time to prepare for the strike. "But they support Piston's call for the government to do something about the fuel situation," he said.

Garvida said the Arroyo administration should have exerted more effort in regulating the petroleum sector once more while crude oil prices were going up. The deregulation of the oil sector in 1997 relinquished the power to peg the price of fuel to oil companies.

Fuel prices had gone up since last year as the price of crude oil in world market broke new highs due partly to the surging demand.

The last time transport groups held a massive strike was on April 18. Transport operators claimed the strike paralyzed 90 percent of the operations in the public transport sector.

No end to row over BF gates

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE PARAÑAQUE CITY GOVERNMENT has asked the court to allow it to execute fully the ordinance that authorized the opening of the main gates of BF Homes to the public.

In its petition, Parañaque officials said the injunction from a Muntinlupa court was a "grievous and fatal mistake."

Judge Alberto Lerma of the city's Regional Trial Court Branch 256 had ordered Parañaque City to cease and desist from implementing Ordinance No. 00-15.

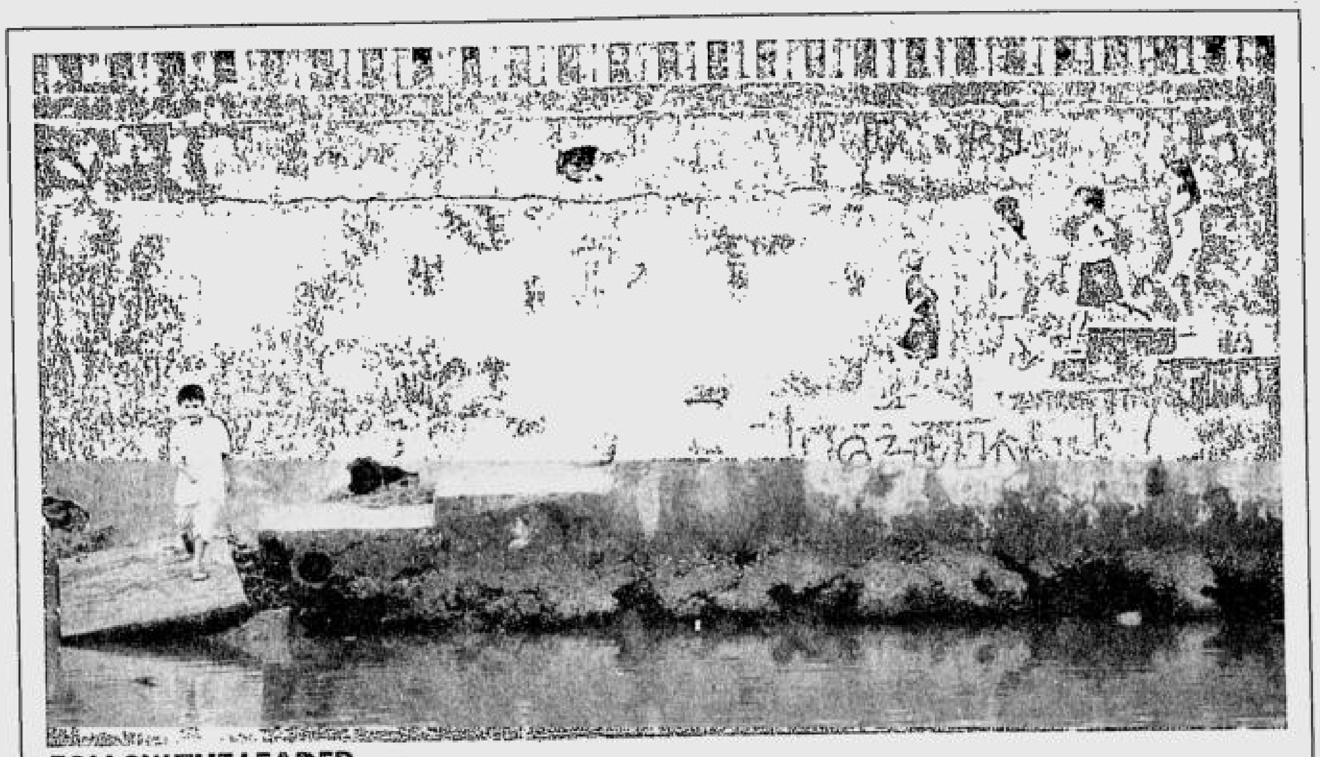
The court said the Writ of Preliminary Mandatory Injunction issued in 2000 was still in effect.

The order also said the local government's motion for reconsideration was not final since the court was still "in the process of considering" the motion for reconsideration of the United BF Homeowners Association Inc. (UBFHAI).

Ordinance No. 00-15, enacted by the City Council in 2000, called for the opening of Aguirre and El Grande Avenues that are linked to major city thoroughfares.

In the 15-page motion for reconsideration obtained by the INQUIRER, the local government cited the court's order on July 12 declaring the ordinance an "unquestionably valid ordinance."

The motion, filed Wednesday afternoon, also recalled that UBFHAI's petition to declare the ordinance unconstitutional was dismissed by the court.



FOLLOW THE LEADER.
Children play on steps by the banks of the Pasig River after school hours in Mandaluyong City unmindful of the danger posed by the deep water.
LYN RILLON

No solid lead in lawyer's murder

By Margaux C. Ortiz

POLICE ARE STILL FACING A BLANK wall in the case of a lawyer murdered Tuesday night inside his house in Manila.

"We are getting the statements of witnesses in the killing of Victor Padilla," said Senior Insp. Dominador Arevelo, Manila Police District Homicide Section chief in a phone interview.

Padilla, 55, of 455 San Jose St., Sampaloc, was shot in the head while celebrating his 57th birthday with his wife, Quezon City Regional Trial Court Judge Ma. Luisa Quijano-Padilla, and friend Vic Bermejo.

The lawyer died Thursday morning while being treated at the University of the East-Ramon Magsaysay (UERM) Memorial Hospital.

Arevalo said they were exploring all possible angles and were taking into account last year's attempt on the lawyer's life when a grenade was found in his car.

The INQUIRER went to the house of Padilla yesterday to talk to his family, but they declined to comment on the case.

According to Bermejo, he was drinking with the victim in the living room around 6:30 p.m. when he saw one of the suspects approach and shoot Padilla.

Police recovered a 9mm slug from the crime scene.

Bermejo and Boy Padua, another close friend of the victim, said Padilla handled several "sensitive cases."

The victim's friends also mentioned recent accusations of landgrabbing in Cagayan Valley against the victim.

MetroBriefs

UP stude found dead

A GRADUATING UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES student was found hanging from a steel window grill inside her rented condominium unit in Quezon City the other day, police said. Ma. Cecilia Loughran, a philosophy senior from the College of Social Sciences and Philosophy, was discovered by a roommate at around 5 p.m. at Room 601 of the Prince David Condominium on Katipunan Avenue, said investigator-on-case SPO1 Felipe Tumibay of the Criminal Investigation Division of the Quezon City Police District in his report. A doctor, also a tenant in the condominium, tried to revive Loughran to no avail, police said. A native of Davao City, Loughran had shared the room with her brother David. Police said they noted no external injuries on the victim, except for ligature marks on her neck. *DJ Yap*

Careful, now

HINDI NA PO UULIT!

VANDALS WOULD now have to think twice before defacing Nagtahan Bridge. Surveillance cameras would be installed on the bridge to secure the area from suspected vandals who had been stealing its streetlights, according to Manila Police District director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong. The police official added that the district had intensified police visibility in the Nagtahan area so they could catch the suspects. "Apart from the barangays, we have also tapped other groups like the Manila Trackers to help us," Bulaong said. Manila Mayor Lito Atienza had ordered the police to launch a manhunt for the vandals who either stole or destroyed the streetlights on the bridge. Atienza said that the Nagtahan span, along with Jones Bridge and McArthur Bridge, were lighted by the city government to deter criminals from taking advantage of unsuspecting victims at night. *Margaux C. Ortiz*

Perks for QC landowners

QUEZON CITY COUNCILOR WINSTON CASTELO has proposed an ordinance exempting landowners from paying real property tax for six years on lands illegally occupied by squatting syndicates. Under the proposed ordinance, the city government would exempt landowners from paying property taxes for six years from the time the resolution is approved. Concerned landowners, Castelo explained, should apply for the exemption in writing to the city mayor The councilor said syndicates and unscrupulous persons had turned squatting into a profitable business at the expense of landowners. Through the ordinance, the city government would be providing landowners a measure of relief while attempts to settle their disputes with informal settlers are being undertaken, he said.

6 suspects in P50M van robbery charged

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

POLICE FILED ROBBERY AND frustrated homicide charges against six suspects in the P50 million robbery of an armored van delivering bags of cash in the Ortigas Business District a month ago.

Four people were wounded when heavily armed robbers attacked an armored van in front of the Discovery Center on ADB Avenue in Pasig City, peppering the building with bullets. Police later recovered almost 50 empty shells from the scene.

The suspects, including a woman, were also arrested by the police seven months ago for allegedly trying to rob a big mall in Pampanga.

An investigator told the INQUIRER the suspects managed to post bail for the illegal possession of firearms charges filed against them.

Pasig City Police investigation chief Supt. Gerry Galvan said the suspects were alleged members of the Ampang Colango Group, believed to be behind other bank robberies in Metro Manila.

The suspects were identified as Rey Noquiao, with addresses in Manila and Bohol; Dolphy Cocholo of Mandaluyong City and Zamboanga; Leonardo Tabasan of Mandaluyong and Cagayan de Oro cities; Edgar Ibañez of Manila and Davao cities; and Analyn Cabigon of Makati and Ozamis cities.

Four of them were among 10 suspects arrested in San Fernando City, Pampanga in February for allegedly robbing a Banco de Oro branch in SM Pampanga.

Three suspects remain unidentified.

Rampant carjackings in Quezon City

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THERE HAVE BEEN MANY incidents of carjackings in Quezon City recently, and yet these have not been reported in the news.

Neither have the Quezon City police and the Traffic Management Group (TMG) done anything about it.

It seems the local police and TMG's "Task Force Limbas" are sleeping on their job.

Carjacking is the forcible taking of a car from its driver by armed men who stop the car on a deserted road during the late hours.

It is different from "carnapping" or car theft in that in the latter, the vehicle is parked or without a driver.

The carjackings take place at the Quezon Avenue underpass, crossing EDSA (at least three incidents); Quezon Ave. near Banawe (at least two incidents); dark streets in the areas around Morato and West Triangle; some parts of EDSA and Commonwealth or Don Mariano Marcos Avenue.

Other favorite hunting grounds of carjackers are the flyover from Libis going to Katipunan, and the underpass tunnel connected to the flyover.

Many carjackings have taken place in other parts of Metro Manila, especially Pasig, but it seems Quezon City is the epicenter of these incidents.

Carjackings take place between 11 p.m. and 4 a.m., when there are few vehicles on the road, but some incidents are known to have occurred even earlier.

The victims: A priest, some businessmen, a money changer, a couple with a daughter (whose father was roughed up in front of mother and daughter), and another couple.

Usually, late model cars are the targets even if they are not so expensive.

But high-end cars seem to be the favorite of carjackers, like BMW, Accord and Prado.

***

Many years ago, while I still didn't have a driver, I nearly became a victim of a carjacking on Quezon Avenue, Quezon City. Two cars sandwiched my car, a Nissan California, and tried to force me into a curb at about 2 a.m. But I was quick to get out of the car.

As I got out, I took a shot at the car in front of me and fired a second shot at the car behind me.

Taken by surprise, the two cars, which had at least two passengers each, sped away.

Will the Quezon City police and the TMG please wake up?

***

Transportation Undersecretary Ricardo "Ricky" E. Alfonso, chair of the Private Emission Testing Centers (PETC) Monitoring Committee, denies allegations in this space that suspended PETCs bribed his men so they could have their suspension lifted.

I believe Ricky because he's my friend.

And I take the word of a friend.

But Ricky probably doesn't know what his men are doing behind his back.

Many PETC owners have phoned this writer since that item last Thursday came out in this space.

They said that Ricky's people forced them to give more than the P30,000 fine imposed on them.

The extra amount was double, even triple the fine, they said.

So, Ricky, you'd better keep an eye on your men who are scattered nationwide.

INQUIRER Platinum Code

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER 1985 20 PLATINUM ANNIVERSARY

[illegible]

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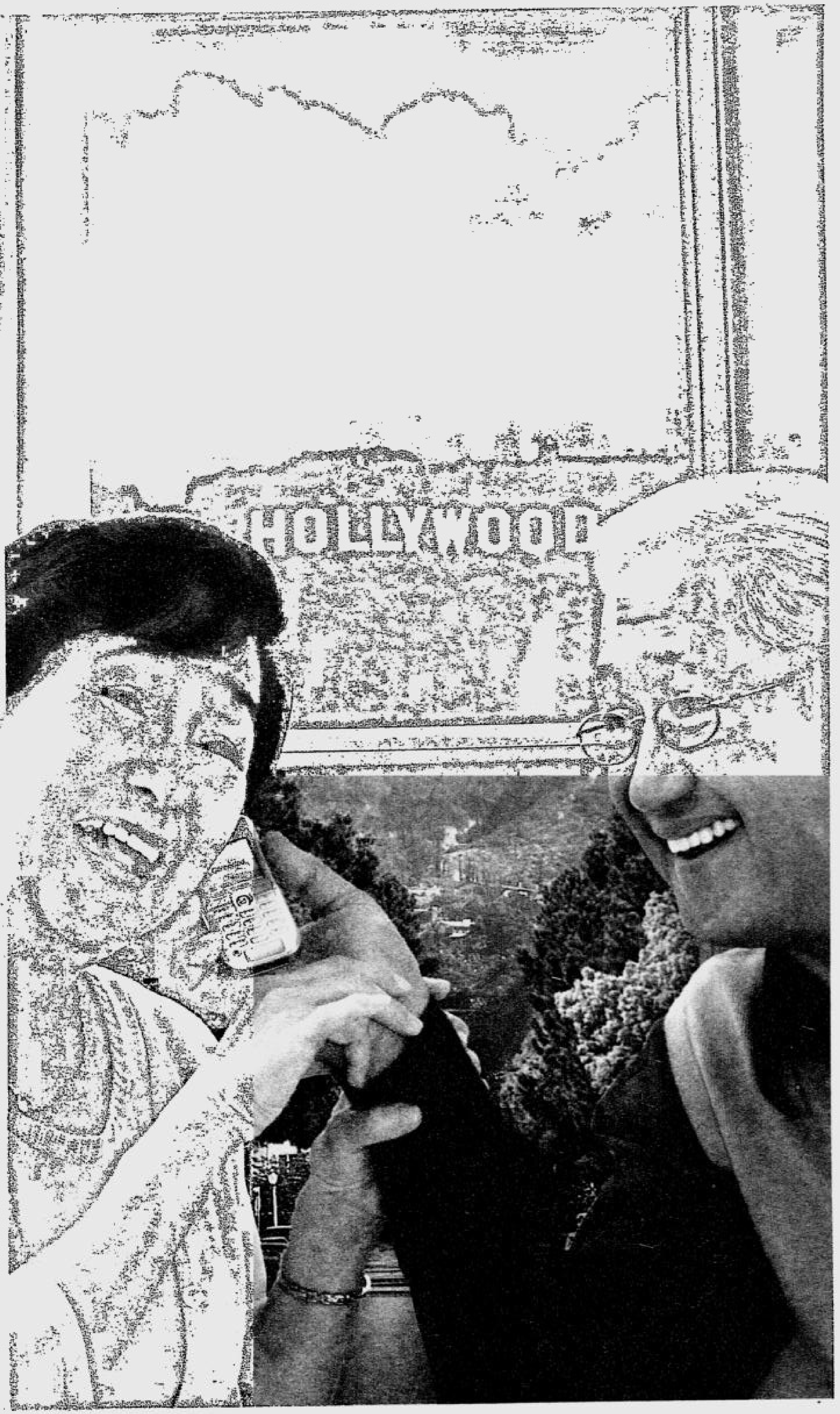

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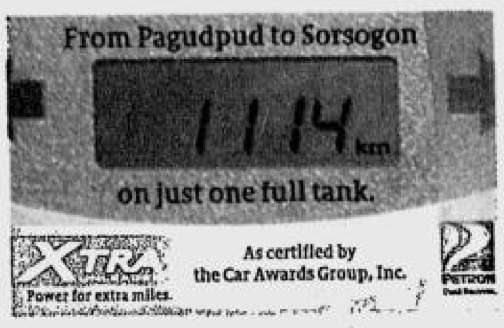
SPORTS TV Compiled by L. Manguiat

TENNIS: 2005 US Open; 11 p.m.; Sports Plus—Check out the men's semifinals when they take place live from Flushing Meadows.

MOTOR SPORTS: 2005 F1 Belgian Grand Prix Qualifying; 6:57 p.m.; STAR Sports—Find out who takes pole position.

BASEBALL: MLB–Yankees vs Red Sox; 7 a.m. (r-9:30 p.m.); ESPN—Bitter foes New York and Boston renew their storied rivalry.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.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Peping still hoping to see SEAG caging

POC word war with PBA erupts

By Musong R. Castillo and June Navarro

HIS RELATIONS WITH THE PHILIPPINE BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION continues to sour up, but the head of the Philippine Olympic Committee is not losing hope that basketball would be played in the forthcoming 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

COJUANGCO: Making moves

EALA: POC action uncalled for

"I am still hopeful," POC president Jose Cojuangco told the INQUIRER. "I will exhaust all my efforts to get basketball played in the SEA Games without allowing the POC to lose face—and that is to give in to threats."

Cojuangco has accused the PBA of threatening to dissolve the national training pool in the midst of a raging leadership crisis between the Basketball Association of the Philippines and the Olympic body.

But yesterday, PBA commissioner Noli Eala countered and said that being berated publicly by Cojuangco was "uncalled for."

"It is unfortunate that POC president Cojuangco reacted negatively to the statements made by the PBA board on Monday," Eala said.

The PBA board said in a statement that the league would pull its resources out of the national team should the POC and BAP fail to reach a truce for the lifting of the Fiba suspension on the country.

The POC does not respond well to threats, stressed an evidently irked Cojuangco.

"There are principles we sincerely adhere to and are not willing to compromise," the POC chief explained. "I really cannot understand the attitude of some of the officers of the PBA."

"The PBA has no fundamental difference with the POC and to lambaste the professional league publicly was uncalled for," Eala said.

"The statement was neither meant as, nor does it constitute a threat, whether actual, veiled or otherwise. It is simply an expression of the PBA, as a major stakeholder in basketball, of its disappointment and frustration over the situation confronting the sport."

Cojuangco, however, explained that Eala and former PBA chair Buddy Encarnado joined other Philippine Basketball Federation Inc. stakeholders in persuading the BAP to mend its ways on handling the basketball affairs in the country.

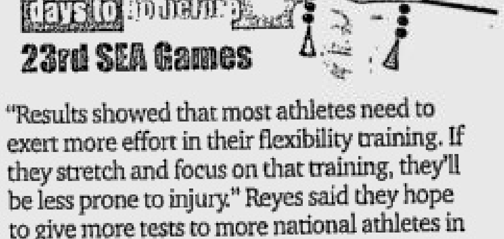
"They (Eala and Encarnado) were party to the agreement reached to establish a training pool and in fact confirmed that the PBA board has agreed to participate in the summit committee that would work to revitalize Philippine basketball," said Cojuangco.

But there are limits to accommodation, Eala said.

"While the PBA continues to regard the POC with the highest respect, the PBA is an independent professional commercial basketball organi-

PEPING/ A27

Stretching for gold



WINNING the overall title in the Southeast Asian Games may—literally—be a stretch. The Philippine Center for Sports Medicine yesterday said results from physiological tests conducted recently revealed that national athletes are wanting in flexibility training. Dr. Joy Reyes, who chairs the Sports Physiological Unity of the PCSM, explained that athletes who fail to undergo proper flexibility training often fall to injuries, specifically the knees or the back. "That's why it's very important *na mag*-stretch *ng mabuti ang mga atleta*," Reyes said during the SCOOP sa Kamayan Forum. "Results showed that most athletes need to exert more effort in their flexibility training. If they stretch and focus on that training, they'll be less prone to injury." Reyes said they hope to give more tests to more national athletes in other sports prior to the Southeast Asian Games to make sure they are physically prepared to compete with the region's best. Hopes are high that Filipino athletes could win the overall title in the Nov. 27-Dec. 5 Games. Athletes are tested on stamina, endurance, speed, body fat, among others.

Paragua co-champ, gets 2nd crack at world championship

PARAGUA

GRANDMASTER Mark Paragua has earned another crack at the World Chess Championship. But Eugene Torre barely missed the boat.

Paragua, the Filipino No. 1, drew with Singaporean GM Wu Shaobin in the ninth and final round yesterday to emerge co-champion in the Asian 3.3 Zonal Championship at Stamford Hotel in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Counting his eighth-round draw with Singaporean GM Wong Meng Kong, Paragua pooled 7 points in the company of Indonesian GM Utut Adianto, who caught up by besting Wong.

Paragua and Adianto will represent the zone in the world championship slated Sept. 27 in San Luis, Argentina.

They eased out GM Torre, who emerged solo third following a victory over International Master Zaw Htun Wynn of Myanmar.

Torre, who got stalled by a draw with Adianto in the eighth round, finished with 6.5 points.

Two other Filipinos, FM Oliver Dimakiling and NM Oliver Barbosa, tied at 5.5 points.

It will be the 21-year-old Paragua's second straight stint in the world championship after having qualified for the 2004 edition in Tripoli, Libya, by placing second to countryman IM Ronald Dableo in the Asian Zonals.

Dableo settled for a 10-way tie for 12th with GM Joey Antonio, Darwin Laylo, GM Nelson Mariano and IM Petronio Roca on 5 points.

IM Jayson Gonzales followed with 4.5 points.

Woman Fide Master Sheerie Joy Lomibao, who held the lead in women's play up to the fifth round, dropped her ninth round assignment to WFM Thi Phuong Lien Li of Vietnam and ended up with 4.5 points—a huge 2.5 points off winner Xuan Thanh Khiet Hoang of Vietnam.

The Filipinos' campaign was backed by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines headed by Go Teng Kok and the FG Foundation.

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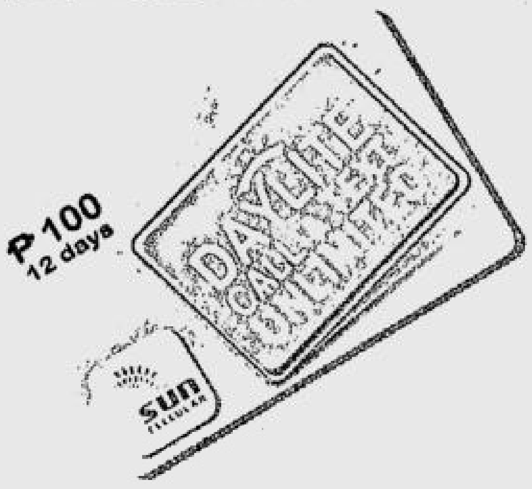

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STANDINGS	W	L
FEU	11	1
UE	9	3
Ateneo	9	3
La Salle	7	4
UP	6	7
UST	4	9
Adamson	3	10
NU	0	12

GAMES TODAY
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
9:30 a.m.—UST vs NU (Jrs)
11:30 a.m.—UE vs UP (Jrs)
2 p.m.—UST vs NU (Srs)
4 p.m.—UE vs UP (Srs)

UAAP orders replay of La Salle-UE match

By Jasmine W. Payo

CITING THAT THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE's report was "inconclusive," the UAAP board ordered yesterday a replay of the second-round match between the La Salle Archers and the University of the East Warriors in the men's basketball tournament on Sept. 18, 4 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum.

"There were some inconclusive things in the report, there were questions that were unanswered," said Fr. Max Rendon of host Adamson University.

"A replay is one of the alternatives that has been used before; there was a precedent," added Rendon, who cited a game replay between the Far Eastern U Tamaraws and the University of Sto. Tomas Tigers in the late '80s.

The decision, though, didn't please La Salle.

"For me it's a half-baked, face-saving decision," said Archers coach Franz Pumaren. "I pity (commissioner) Joe Lipa and (technical committee chair) Ricky Palou because the board wouldn't listen or believe in their expertise. It was a matter of yes or no. Was the timeout valid? They didn't answer."

Coach Dindo Pumaren, Franz's younger brother, said he would rather have his Warriors keep their winning form against the University of the Philippines Maroons at 4 p.m. today.

"I informed the players about the decision but I told them not to think about it and just focus on our game against UP," he said.

With the decision, the Warriors and the Ateneo Eagles now share second place at 9-3. The Archers remain at fourth spot with a 7-4 slate. No team has secured the twice-to-beat advantage in the Final Four.

La Salle filed an appeal last Monday after the technical committee nullified its 86-83 overtime win last Sept. 1 and declared UE the winner.

The committee upheld UE's protest that La Salle wasn't entitled to a timeout in the last 1.8 seconds of play.

Favorites dispute NCAA title

Knights, Dolphins rip foes; forge showdown

By Jasmine W. Payo

TABBED AS THE FAVORITES right from the start, the Letran Knights and defending titlist Philippine Christian U Dolphins arranged a title showdown after blasting their semifinal foes yesterday in the Final Four of the NCAA basketball tournament at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Banking on their fourth-quarter scoring surge, the Knights clobbered the San Sebastian Stags, 93-60.

The 2003 champions outscored the Stags, 32-6, behind senior swingman Aaron Aban, who shot 11 of his 21 points in the final quarter.

In the second game, Robert Sanz pumped in 24 points to lead the Dolphins past the Mapua Cardinals in a 76-53 rout.

Gabby Espinas also delivered all-around performances, posting 19 points, 15 rebounds six assists, three steals and three blocks.

"It will be an interesting matchup," said PCU coach Junel Baculi.

Meanwhile, the NCAA disqualified the Letran Squires in the Final Four of junior play after guard Lester Alvarez was found to have been playing in a commercial league.

The scores:

First Game (Srs)

LETRAN 93—Aban 21, Rodriguez 15, Andaya 13, Aldave 12, Alcaraz 12, Bautista 11, Jazul 7, Quinday 2,Mondragon 0, Piñera 0, Realista 0, Balneg 0.

SSC 60—Vicente 21, Najorda 16, Viray 8, Delgado 4, Lindaya 3, Aguilar 3, Ballesteros 2, Aquino 0.

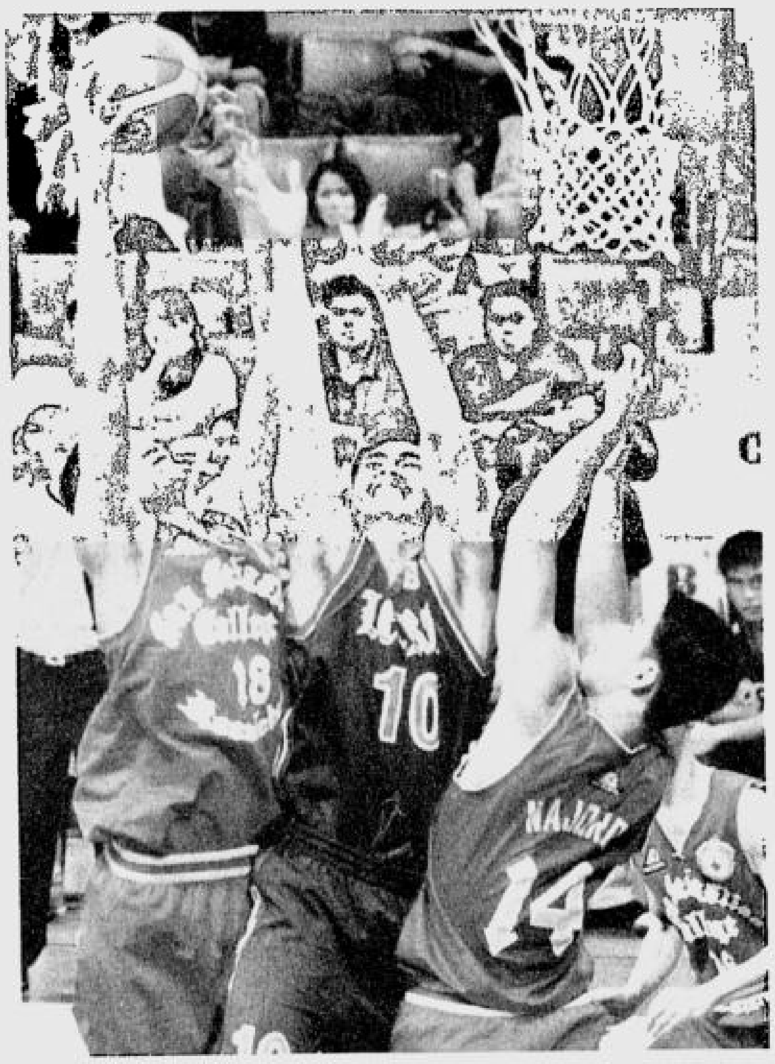
Quarters: 23-13, 35-30,61-54, 93-60

Second Game (Srs)

PCU 76—Sanz 24, Espinas 19, Amparado 10, Castro 9, Belga 8, Retaga 6, Solis 0, Salangsang 0, Cecilia 0, Santos 0.

MAPUA 53—Dela Peña 25, Gonzales 7, Co 6, Tiongco 4, Migraso 3, Pascual 2, Del Rosario 2, Mazo 2, Veranga 2, Sumalinog 0, Gorospe 0, Salud 0, Malgapo 0.

Quarters: 23-10, 36-29, 47-47, 76-53.



FREDERICK Rodriguez of Letran gets sandwiched in a rebound play by San Sebastian's Jayson Ballesteros (left) and Leo Najorda. RYAN LIM

Thoss, Arigo meet fans

ALASKA'S SONNY THOSS AND Stephen Padilla and Coca-Cola's John Arigo will be at two Robinson's malls today to meet their fans in the second week of the PBA tour at the Robinson's chain of malls.

The Aces will visit Robinsons-Ermita beginning at 4 p.m. while Arigo, plus the other Tigers, are expected to motor to Pampanga to treat their fans to an afternoon of fun and laughter at Robinsons-Starmills in Angeles City.

Robinson's Malls brought back the PBA tour in conjunction with the celebration of the league's 30th anniversary. Aptly billed "Celebrating 30 years of PBA with Robinsons Malls," the mall tour hopes to give the PBA fans the chance to be with their favorite players from various PBA ballclubs.

PESTA SUKAN TILT

Gymnast De Guzman keys 3-gold RP harvest

FILIPINO GYMNASTS CONTINUED their fine form in the run-up to the 23rd Southeast Asian Games, grabbing three gold medals in the 2005 Pesta Sukan Gymnastics Championships held Sept. 3-7 at the Basha Hall in Basha, Singapore.

Cintamoni de Guzman, who accounted for three of the five medals the Filipinos won in last month's 1st Rajiv Gandhi International Gymnastics Competition in India, delivered again for the Philippines.

She took the gold in the uneven bars and bagged silvers in the team competition, balance beam and floor exercise, as well as a bronze in the individual all-around.

This time, however, teammate Christa Santos overshadowed the 28-year-old De Guzman by capturing two gold and two silver medals.

Santos, 15, topped the vault and floor exercise and took the silver in the uneven bars, behind De Guzman, and in the team event.

Carissa Saguisag won a bronze in the vault and was part, along with De Guzman, Santos and Phoebe Espiritu, of the silver medal-winning team.

Top Singaporean and Indonesian gymnasts also vied in the week-long tournament.

Karatekas pull off victories in France

CHERLI TUGDAY LANDED TWO gold medals and Gretchen Malalad contributed another as the Philippines-Red Horse karatedo team made an impact in the Coupe de l'Amite in Toulon, France, recently.

The Filipinos also grabbed two silver and two bronze medals in the international tournament that's part of the their preparations for the 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

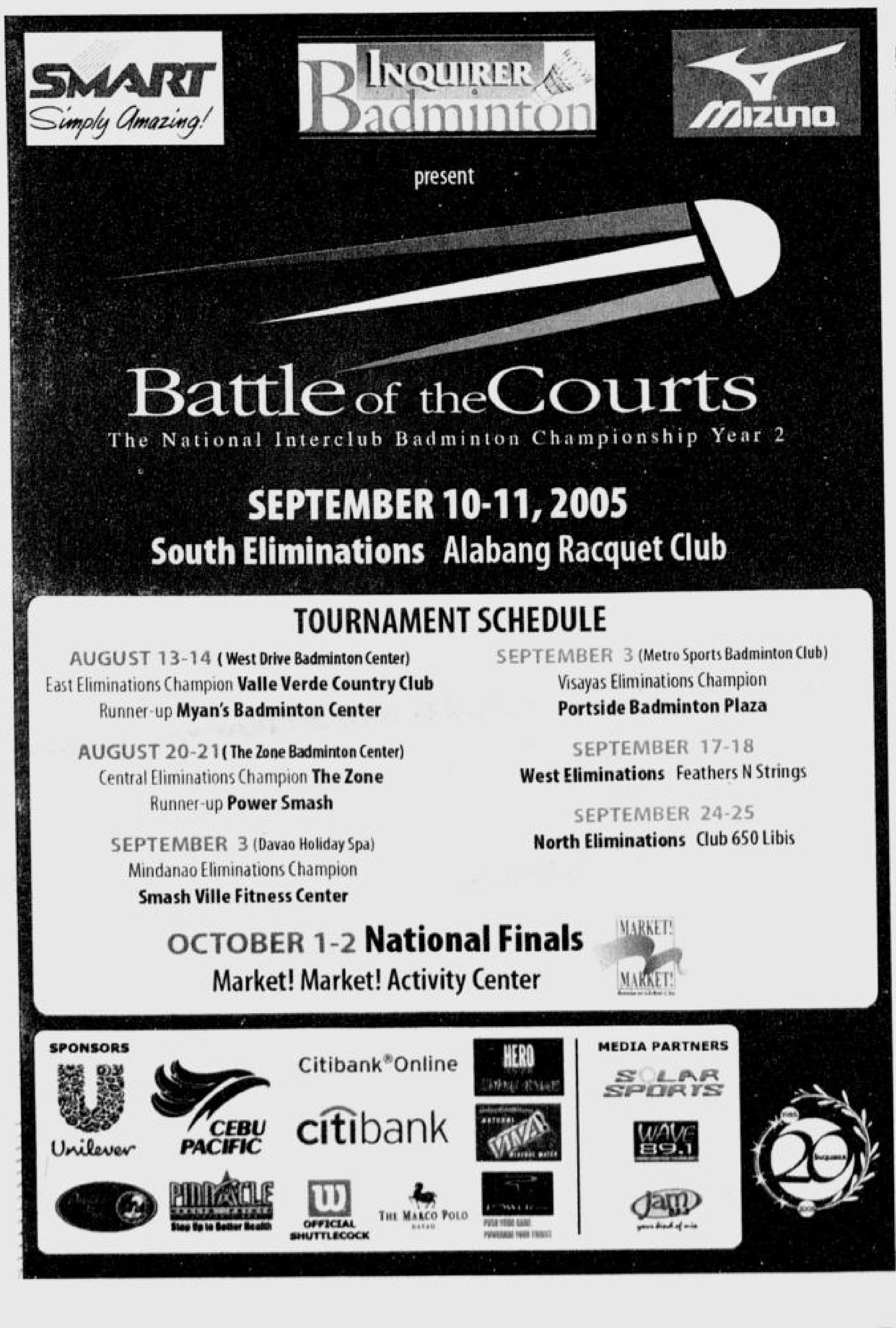
Tugday and Malalad, both standouts from the Karate Development Arts and Sports (KDA) and fighting for the Philippine Air Force, ruled the women's kumite in the 60-kg-and-under and 60-kg-and-over classes, respectively.

Tugday also took the gold in the shobu ippon (traditional kumite).

Malalad, RP's lone karate gold medalist in the 2003 SEA Games in Vietnam, settled for the silver in her shobu ippon category in the competition that drew karatekas from 10 European and African countries.

SEAG medal hopeful Nelson Pacalso, fighting in the 60-kg-and-above class, and PAF mainstay Bernardino Chu (60 kg and under), accounted for the silvers in the kumite, while the women's and men's teams in kumite nailed the bronzes.

The RP team, whose European training is sponsored by San Miguel Corp., is mentored by former world karate champion Giuseppe Romano of Italy and managed by former PBA cager Alvin Patrimonio, SMC project director for karate.



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Runner-up Power Smash
SEPTEMBER 3 (Davao Holiday Spa)
Mindanao Eliminations Champion
Smash Ville Fitness Center
SEPTEMBER 3 (Metro Sports Badminton Club)
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SPORTSWATCH

Darts monthly at Daungan

THE SEVENTH leg of the monthly Daungan Darts Club series will be held tonight at the Daungan Restaurant on Mother Ignacia Street in Quezon City with prizes worth P10,000 up for grabs. A classified doubles event, the meet is one of the biggest regular tournaments in Metro Manila and is being held in partnership with the Darts Council of the Philippines. Mode of play is KOC (killers-01-choice). Entry fee is P130 inclusive of one free drink. Registration starts at 7:30 p.m. while games begin at 8:30. As an added feature, competing darters will get to watch, for free, the bikini open competition being held every Saturday at Daungan Restaurant.

Longshots top PCAP tilt

UNHERALDED entries RT 114 of Edgar Santos and Ruel Ricafort, Altuz of Ram Lopez, RJ Mulawin of Rudy Albano and Grand Villa Butterfly of Vice Mayor Nestor Mercado shared the title in the Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines (PCAP) 5-stag derby Monday night at the Makati Coliseum. Each entry posted four wins and one loss. The next PCAP 5-stag derby sizzles on Sept. 12 with more than 70 fights. Submission of weights is tomorrow. For inquiries, call 896-3545 or 895-6475.

Stag festival stakes P1.3M

UPCOMING cockers and breeders will showcase their new battlecrosses in Roligon Mega Cockpit's Stag Festival 5-Stag Derby on Oct. 15, 17 and 19. To be hosted by Roligon owner Rolly Ligon, the event has an entry fee of P7,700 and offers a guaranteed prize of P1.3 million. The fastest-win champion gets a Big Horn Isuzu 4x4 as bonus. Stags with "Showdown" wingbands are automatically accepted, except those with R+ classification. Additional screening will be held at Roligon beginning Monday. For inquiries, call 8512275, 8331638, 8529812 or 0917-8277484. Meanwhile, four entries ruled the National Showdown 7-Stag derby last Wednesday—Jun Pe of Zamboanga (JP Sly I), Boy Marzo (BM Bulalayaw), Tonton Uy (Vertical Limit) and Guhit Na entry.

SJ Coliseum opening set

THE GCAP Super Big Event 8-Stag Derby will be the main fare of San Juan Coliseum's grand opening on Tuesday and Thursday. GCAP founder Patrick Antonio has confirmed the participation of 40 prominent cockers. San Juan Coliseum boasts state-of-the-art air-conditioning system, modern facilities and a country-style townhouse where participants can stay during the derby. The SJC management announced yesterday the appointment of veteran cocker Eric dela Rosa as pit manager. Derby starts at 2 p.m. with more than 80 fights on tap. For inquiries, call 0917-8061691.

British Cup today at Santa Ana

THE PHILIPPINE RACING Club Inc. (PRCI) rolls out the red carpet anew for the country's British horse racing aficionados as it hosts the 2nd British Cup Racing Festival today at the Santa Ana Park.

As in last year's inaugural edition, the full-card event of 13 races will be named after geographical areas comprising the United Kingdom and will be highlighted by the running of the 2nd British Cup.

Seven crack gallopers make up the field of challengers for the 1,500-meter British Cup, carrying a guaranteed winner's prize of P200,000 put up by the PRCI. Second and third placers are assured of P75,000 and P40,000, respectively.

The field includes topnotch gallopers Don Paolo, Chariot of Fire and Native Land and classy imports Frosty Bally, Marque, Master Dancer and Trieste.

Paolo Mendoza's noted speedball, Don Paolo (Medium Cool-Vice Royal), is tipped as the favorite, alongside Tony de Ubago's Chariot of Fire (Conquistarose-Chase the Wind). Hermie Esguerra's Aussie-bred Marque (Marquetry-Double Copy) looms as the worthiest challenger.

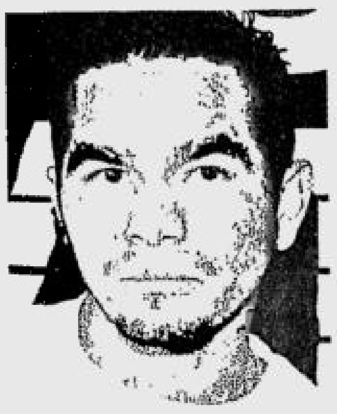
British Ambassador to the Philippines Peter Beckingham, a frequent Santa Ana visitor, is expected to grace the occasion.

Meanwhile, the 4th leg of the Santa Ana Park Championship Series is set tomorrow.

WILLIAM INGLIS AUSTRALIA CUP
AUSTRALIAN-NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATION CUP

AUSTRALIAN Ambassador Tony Hely (center) awards the winner's trophy to Hermie Esguerra following the victory of his horse, Suppressed, in the 2nd William Inglis-Australia Cup at the Santa Ana Park recently. With them are (from left) William Inglis & Son Ltd. business development director Arthur Inglis, Wendy Hely and PRCI chief executive Solomon Cua.

Not a single step back, vows Pacquiao foe


VELASQUEZ: I respect him

HE RESPECTS MANNY PACquiao, but don't expect Hector Velasquez to take a single step back when the two sluggers shoot it out in Los Angeles, California, Saturday evening (Sunday in Manila).

Claiming that his time to shine has come, Velasquez, 30, said he is unfazed by the reputation of the Filipino pound-for-pound boxing icon at yesterday's final press conference hosted by promoter Bob Arum at the Wilshire Grand Hotel at downtown LA.

"I respect Manny a lot, and I will be fighting him with that respect, but I won't be taking a single step backwards against Manny," Velasquez was quoted as saying by Fightnews.com.

Pacquiao was quick to counter.

"I make sure to make you a good fight, to make people happy," he replied, obviously in the mood to plug his new movie.

Pacquiao and Velasquez duke it out in a 12-round super-featherweight mainer of a stellar card that also features Mexican fight great Erik Morales.

Morales and Pacquiao are being set up for a rematch, following their thrilling first encounter won in March by the Mexican, tentatively set on Jan. 21 in Las Vegas.

Rey Bautista, the Bohol-raised prodigy fighting in the undercard, was also in attendance at yesterday's press conference and received special mention when he was called to the dais by Arum for a short speech.

Arum introduced the undefeated Bautista to the American media as "the next Pacquiao."

Bautista, a colorful knockout artist, will be facing Colombia's Felix Murillo in the undercard.

Another Filipino fighter, Brian Viloria, attempts to snatch the WBC light-flyweight crown off Mexican Eric Ortiz's head.

"I think it's the best card we've ever put on in Los Angeles, from top to bottom," declared Arum, who was seconded by Morales.

Morales takes on former Olympian Zahir Raheem in the 12-round co-main event at the Staples Center in Los Angeles.

Pacquiao, 26, who reported to the Wild Card Boxing Club of trainer Freddie Roach on Aug. 8 after a long lay-off, fights Velasquez backed by one of the shortest preparations in his career.

Velasquez, 30, definitely enjoys an edge in conditioning, he has trained for over two months, but experts believe he would have to survive Pacquiao's slashing start for a chance at victory in the latter rounds.

Pacquiao, the overwhelming favorite, is 39-3-2 with 30 knockouts.

Velasquez, described as strong and durable, is 42-10-2 with 31 wins inside the distance.

Other bouts pit Vanes Martirosyan versus Gerardo Preito; Urbano Antillon versus Gustavo Tapia, and David Rodela against Hector Leyva.

Official weigh-in has been set today also at the Staples Center. *Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor*

Big J leads 'Free Distrito' fund-raiser

JAWORSKI

FORMER SEN. ROBERT JAWORSKI WANTS Rudy Distrito out of jail, so he's raising money for the legal defense of his former teammate through a fund-raising tournament in the United States.

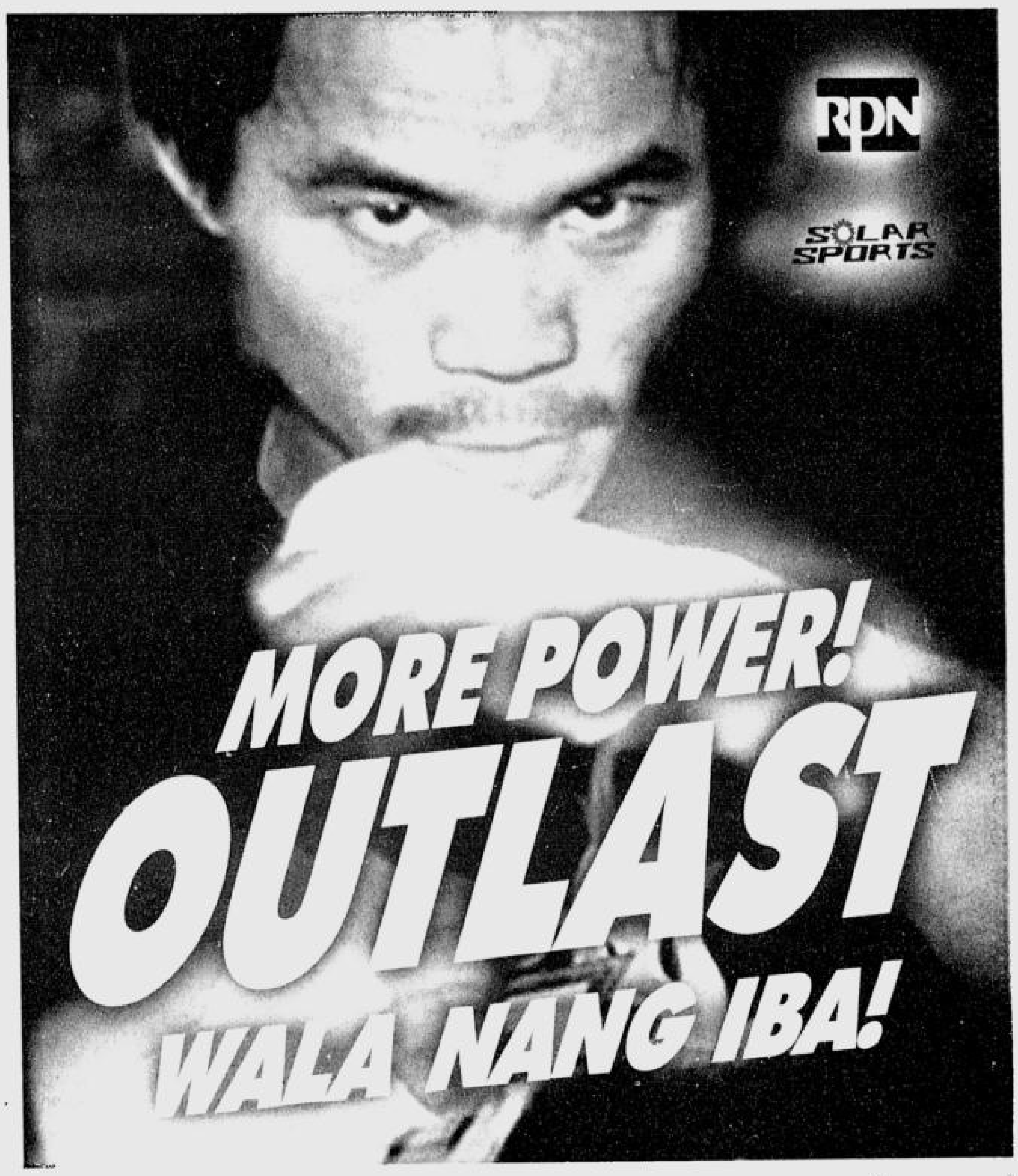
Jaworski, Distrito's coach during his Ginebra days in the PBA, will spearhead a cast of Filipino basketball legends in a series of exhibition games starting in California on Sept. 24.

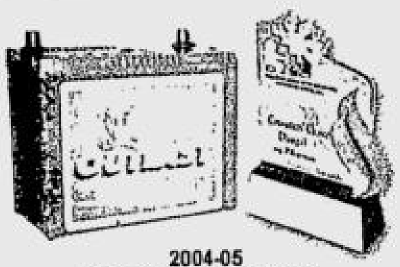
The 47-year-old Distrito is facing murder charges for allegedly stabbing to death a 24-year-old, Mexican-American during an altercation in their Las Vegas neighborhood. The Las Vegas court had set a $500,000 bail and a Nov. 14 trial.

Aside from Jaworski, four other members of the PBA's 25 Greatest Players—Ricky Brown, Bernard Fabiosa, Francis Arnaiz, Abet Guidaben—will boost the event slated Sept. 24 at the Veterans Sports Complex in Carson, California.

A $10 entrance fee will be charged in the game that will also feature former Ginebra players Dondon Ampalayo, Bal David, Pongky Alolor, Ricky Relosa, Macky de Joya, Peter Aguilar, Boy Valera, Dennis Abbatuan and Anthony Mendoza.

Former Ginebra assistant coach Rino Salazar, as well as Yves Dignadice, Yoyoy Villamin, Abe King, Tim Coloso, Romy dela Rosa, Jun Jabar, Naning Valenciano, Cris Bade, Ricky Cui, Django Rivera and Boyet Francisco will also play. *June Navarro*





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Only those with handicaps of 10 or below for male, and 12 or below for female players can join the tournament won last year by Jun Bernis over former champion Artemio Murakami at Villamor.

Bernis will defend his crown in the tournament sponsored by ICTSI, SMC, Aboitiz, Hanjin Group, Petron Blaze, Pagcor, PCSO, Bench, Department of Tourism, Omega and Philippine Airlines.

"We look forward to another successful staging of the tournament," said admiral Louie Fernandez, secretary general of the organizing National Golf Association of the Philippines.

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MTRCB PG-13
11 00 1 45 4 30, 7·15, 10 00

③ SKY HIGH
MTRCB GP
12.20, 2·45 5·10 7·35, 10:00

④ THE LONG WEEKEND
MTRCB R-13
12 15, 2 30, 4.45, 7.00, 9:15

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RED EYE PG13 12:00,2:00,4:00, 6:00,8:00,10:00	THE CAVE PG13 1:30,3:40,5:50,8:00,10:10	THE BROTHERS GRIMM PG13 12:30,3:00,5:30, 8:00,10:30

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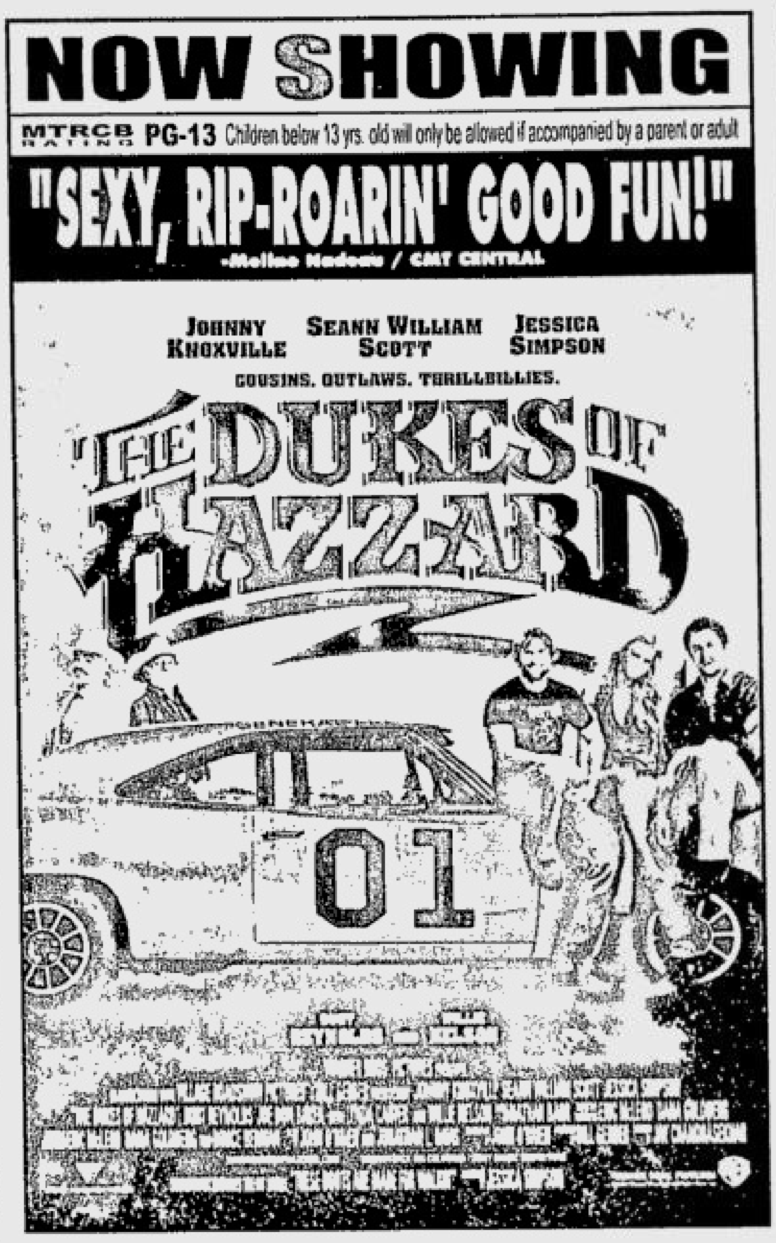
1 RED EYE 11:20, 2:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00 PG-13
2 BROS. GRIMM 12:10, 2:55, 5:40 8:25, 11:00 PG-13
3 SKY HIGH 1:20, 3:45, 6:10 8:35, 11:00 GP
4 THE CAVE 1:20, 3:45, 6:10 8:35, 11:00 PG-13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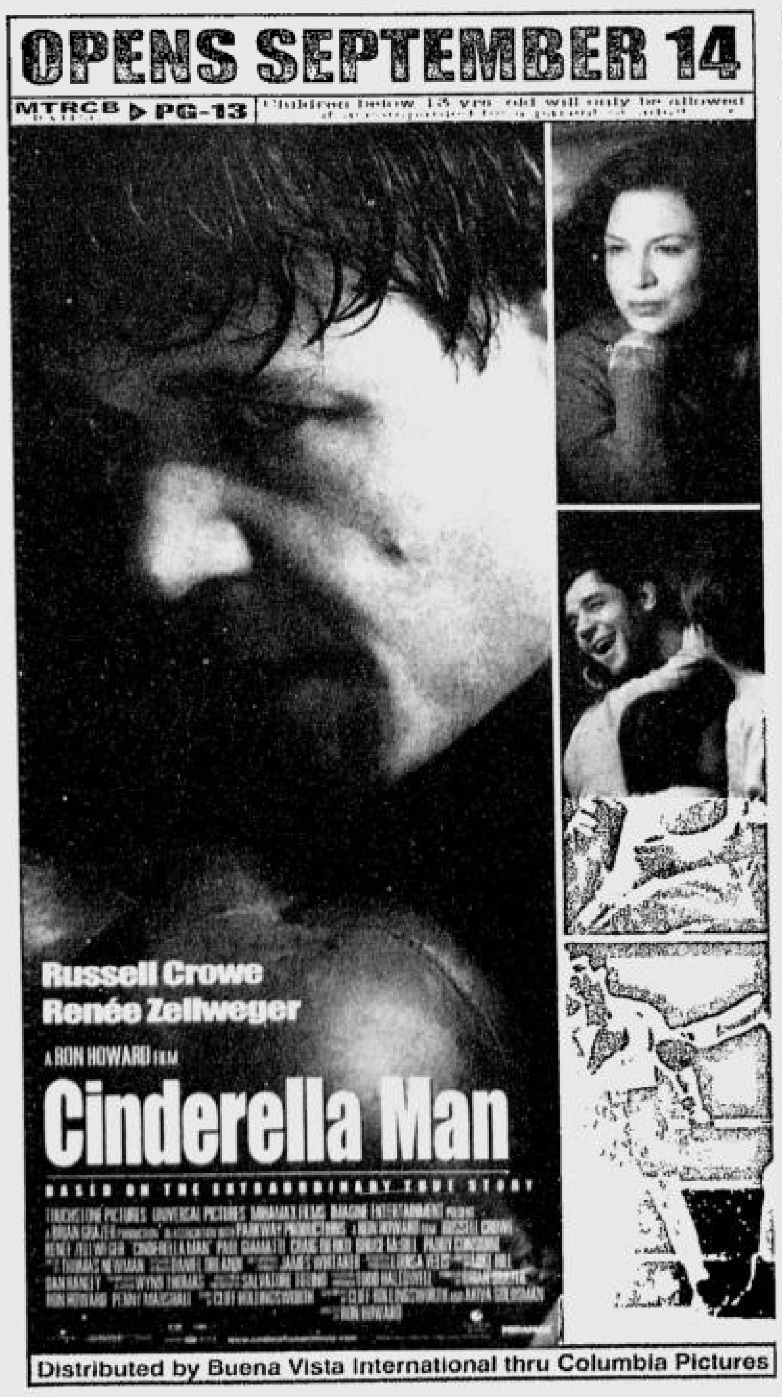
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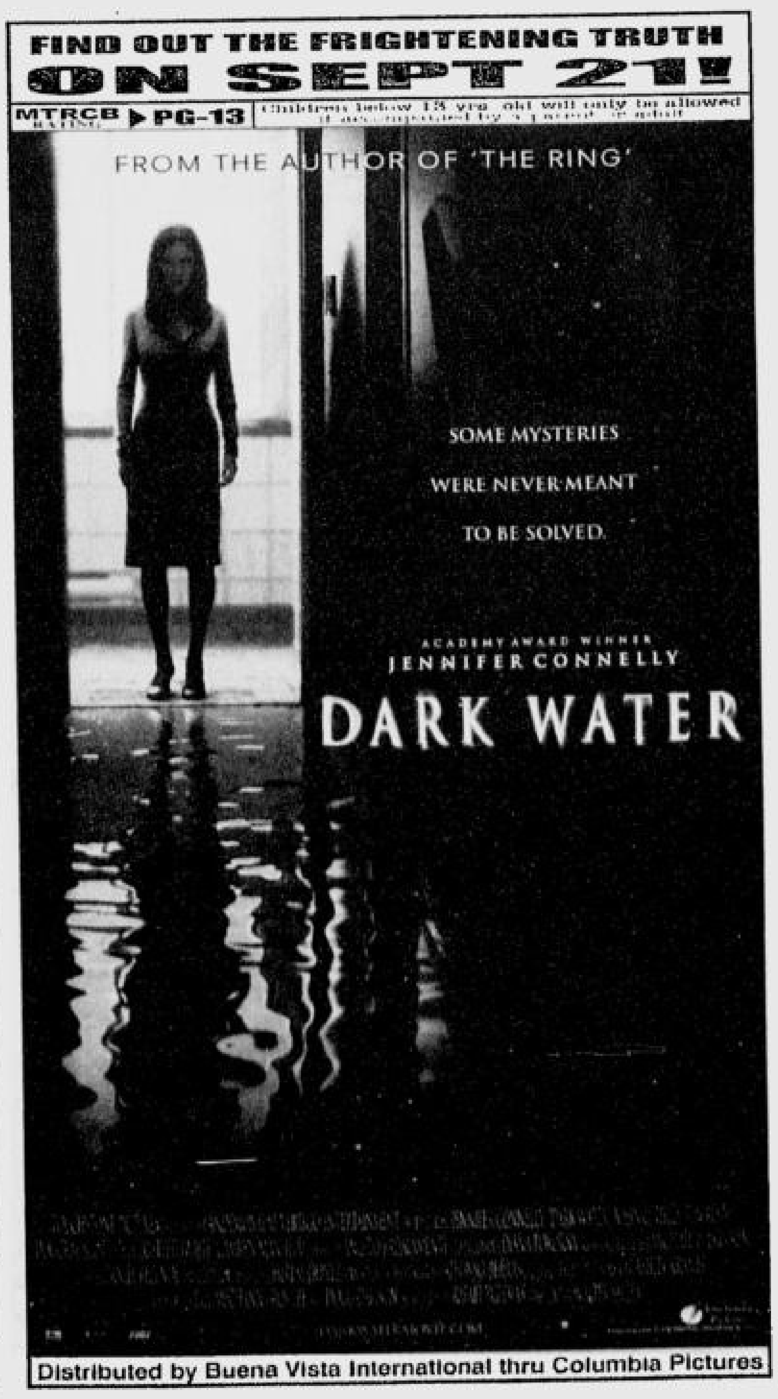
WICKED PRAYER: BRING ME TO LIFE
OPENS SEPTEMBER 14
DIMENSION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Prophet of Doom picks Velasquez

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

THE PBA board must have been mildly shocked at the caustic reaction of the .POC president to the statement they issued after last Monday's meeting calling for the restoration of the Philippines' active status in the Fiba.

"We had the most noble of intentions. We merely wanted to rectify the status of Philippine basketball. This was the message we wanted to impart," said Sta. Lucia governor Buddy Encarnado.

No association or personality, he pointed out, should be above Philippine basketball.

"We have to make a little sacrifice for the sake of flag and country. We don't want to be made the laughingstock in the SEA Games. Imagine, *dito gagawin yung* event, *tapos hindi makakalaro yung* team *natin*. Worse, *baka mawala pa ang* basketball *sa* calendar."

* * *

Former Parañaque Jets coach Jun Da Jose wrote to express his hurt over the statement made by Senator Jinggoy Estrada during the Senate hearing on the basketball controversy last August 31.

"I was a bit hurt *dahil hindi naman po kami nakiusap sa* RP team *para magpatalo sa amin. Iba naman po ang basketball ng mga artista sa talagang* competitive players. Actually, when we played for the NBC title against the RP team, *wala namang artistang naglaro*. In fact, most of my players have had PBA and PBL experience. *Hindi po kami* ragtag team. *Masakit sa loob ko dahil pinaghirapan kong buuin yung* team, *tapos sasabihin ng lahat, pulot lang*," Jun explained.

Jovy Sese, Rolly Basilides and Randy Lopez are ex-PBA players, he said, while Larry Rodriguez, Arden Guiyab, Jason Alminario, Erick Araman, Tristan Codamon, Alex Bognot, Ronald Ruiz, Elvis Tolentino, Marvin Yambao and Gerry Prado are products of the PBL and collegiate leagues.

In fairness, Senator Jinggoy was referring to his own team and not Parañaque Vice Mayor Anjo Yllana's Jets when he said—in jest, I believe—that actors sometimes ask the opposing team to go easy on them, "*para hindi mapahiya sa* fans."

* * *

Jampy Flores of Vancouver, Canada, finds it strange that the Philippines is not a member of the International University Sports Foundation or FISU which participates in the University Olympics.

"I hope our sports leaders can push for our country to become a member. Our college athletes need this to develop themselves to competitive levels—to that stage next to the Olympics," Jampy said in his e-mail.

The FISU was officially formed in 1949 although its origin goes as far back as the 1920s when Frenchman Jean Petitjean organized the first World Student Games in Paris in May 1923. Membership is worldwide and is as extensive as that of the Olympics.

"The next University Summer Games will be held in Bangkok, which is practically next door. This is as big an event as the Olympics, for a specific age group. Hope we can apply for membership in the FISU as soon as possible," Jampy said.

* * *

His name is Mike Pangilinan but he's better known as the outspoken Devil's Advocate or The Prophet of Doom. The other day I received an e-mail from him which I dreaded to read but read anyway, out of severe curiosity. I shouldn't have. Here goes:

Dear Beth,

Previously I predicted a Morales win over Pacquiao (the only one who dared to do this publicly). Comes now the fight between Pacquiao and Hector Velasquez. Again, for country, of course, I choose Pacquiao, but for money, I choose Velasquez.

Papasukin ni Hector *si* Manny. Body punching is Hector's game *kaya naman bakal ang panga niya*. He has won his last seven fights, *sa lakas ng suntok na bayo na singbigat ng adobe*, sending his opponent writhing in pain.

The best way to fight a bulldozing body puncher is to box at a distance. Manny must move around constantly, to his left and to his right to keep Hector off-balance and disarm his punches. Most of all, Manny must be able to throw the right hand effectively: double jab, right hook, right uppercut. Unfortunately, Manny never developed the power of his right hand under Freddie Roach."

Record field seen in Davao Shell chess

THE 2005 SHELL NATIONAL YOUTH ACTIVE CHESS Championships swings to Mindanao this weekend when the penultimate leg of the series reels off Sept. 17 at the Galsano Mall in Davao City. Registration is ongoing, according to the sponsoring Pilipinas Shell, which expects another record field in the country's biggest chess talent-search. Cagayan de Oro hosts the final leg on Oct. 1-2 at the Lim Ketkai Mall.

Peping still hoping . . .

From page A23

zation that is not under the jurisdiction of the POC and therefore should be treated as an industry partner," he said.

Eala said the PBA board's recent stand on the national team was a collegial decision arrived at by the league governors and "not by any one or two officers of the league."

Though the PBA has agreed to help solve the problem on the formation of the national team, Eala said the league has been consistent on its position not to get embroiled in the leadership struggle involving the PBF, BAP and the POC.

Cojuangco's efforts to be able to hold the basketball event in the forthcoming SEA Games include getting in touch with (international federation) secretary general Patrick Baumann, who termed as "impossible" the call for the recognition of the Philippine Basketball Federation vice the Basketball Association of the Philippines.

"I am making moves," Cojuangco admitted. "I am still trying to reach Baumann. I am just waiting for replies. Let's see what steps are there to be taken."

SEAG opening team intact

MARIA MONTELIBANO, THE PRODUCER OF the opening day show of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games, yesterday issued a statement strongly denying an INQUIRER report that she and her team had resigned.

"I cannot do that (resign) as the preparations are now in full swing," Montelibano said.

The culture of our Asian neighbors will be highlighted in an offering that will run for approximately 2 ½ hours with an expected 250,000 attendance at the Luneta Grandstand.

Close to P50 million will be spent by the Philippine SEAG Organizing Committee (Philsoc) for this program alone.

Musong Castillo

Larong fuels Hapee in NBC caging

MANDAUE CITY—PBL VETERan Ardy Larong exploded for 24 points to propel the Hapee/Dewfoam-backed Mantawi Sparkling Nights past Bacchus/Harbour Centre, 77-68, Thursday in the Panasonic-NBC national basketball championship at the Sports and Cultural Center here.

With Larong hitting his stride early, the Sparkling Nights jumped to a 19-11 lead just before the first quarter ended. They kept the lead throughout, even padding this to 12, 64-52, at 8:24 in the payoff period.

The win gave Mantawi an 8-4 card in the tourney supported by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Spring Cooking Oil, Sunbolt Sports Drink, Accel, Molten, Nature's Spring, Far Eastern Insurance, Skygo Motorcycles, Sirlitz, Hapee Toothpaste, Dewfoam, KSK Food Products (Boy Bawang), Bayview Park Hotel and Holiday Plaza-Hotel.

The Sparkling Nights moved a game ahead of defending champion Tribu Sugbu, which has a 7-5 slate.

"I hope to finish the elimination with a win over Tribu Sugbu," said Mantawi coach Jun Noel. "That is the real fight we look forward to."

Ferdinand Dennis Daa, Mauie Huelar and Jayson Alminario ably supported Larong with 12, 11 and 11 points, respectively.

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SOLHEIM CUP

Europeans target a big-hitting start

CARMEL, INDIANA—European captain Catrin Nilsmark drove home one point: She thinks distance is essential to winning the Solheim Cup at Crooked Stick Golf Club.

Nilsmark can only hope now that she's right.

Among her 12 players are some of the best drivers in the women's game: Laura Davies, Maria Hjorth, Annika Sorenstam and Sophie Gustafson. All of them, Nilsmark believes, will make an immediate impact in Friday morning's alternate-shot matches.

"There [are] so many big hitters," she said.

Others, such as John Daly, have proven that going long is the best strategy on this course, which will play at 5,955 meters (6,515 yards) for the Solheim Cup. Daly won his first major here with his famous grip it-and-rip it style.

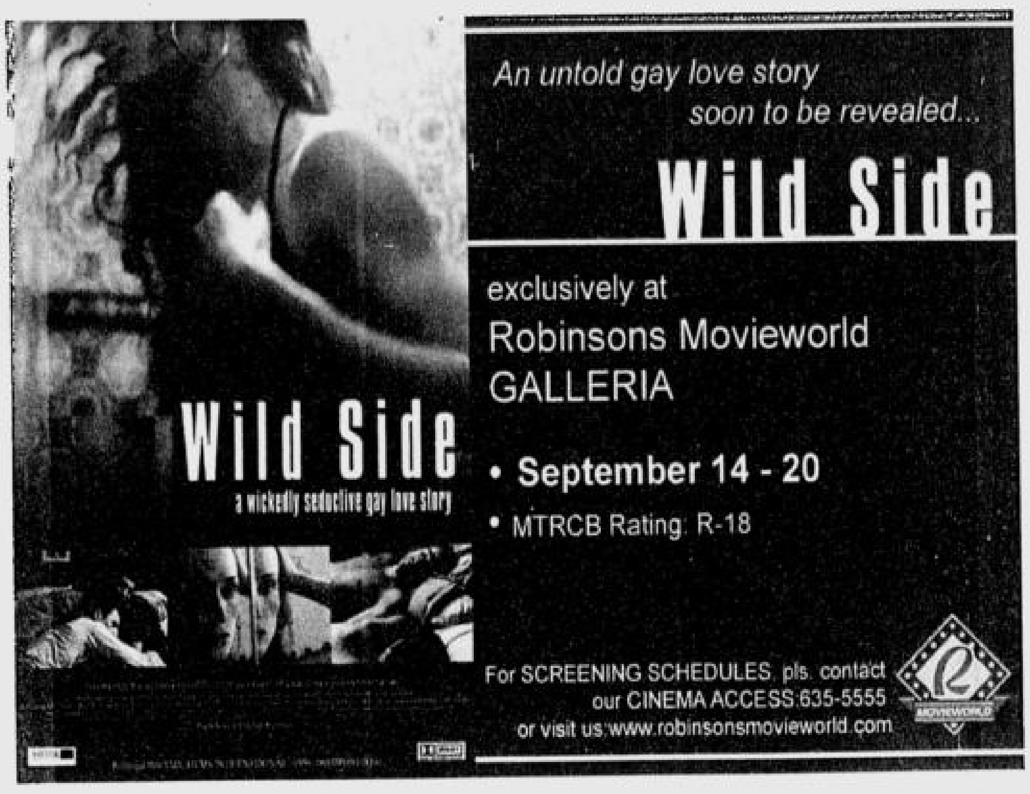
If Nilsmark is right, the Europeans could win on American soil for the first time in the Cup's nine-match history. Gustafson, Sorenstam, Davies and Hjorth fill spots two through five on this year's LPGA list of average driving distance.

How much can it help? Davies, the only player to make every Cup team since the event started in 1990, believes the long hitters will give the Europeans a significant advantage.

"All of our players will be able to reach all the par-5s in two," Davies said Tuesday. "I think it will be an advantage on the front nine. I haven't seen the back nine yet, but on a couple of the dog legs, it could help us."

The Americans won't even get a break with the pairings.

Davies, a Brit, and Hjorth, a Swede, will be in the second group Friday morning, perhaps giving the Europeans the longest-hitting duo ever in the foursome matches. They face Americans Cristie Kerr and Natalie Gulbis. *AP*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THE CAVE 12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30	SKELETON KEY 1:50 / 4:20 / 6:50 / 9:20
LISENSYADONG KAMAO 12:30 / 2:40 / 4:50 / 7:00 / 9:10	SKY HIGH 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20

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❷ THE CAVE 1:55 / 4:05 / 6:15 / 8:25	❺ SKY HIGH 1:45 / 3:55 / 6:05 / 8:15
❸ RED EYE 12:00 / 2:10 / 4:20 / 6:30 / 8:40	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

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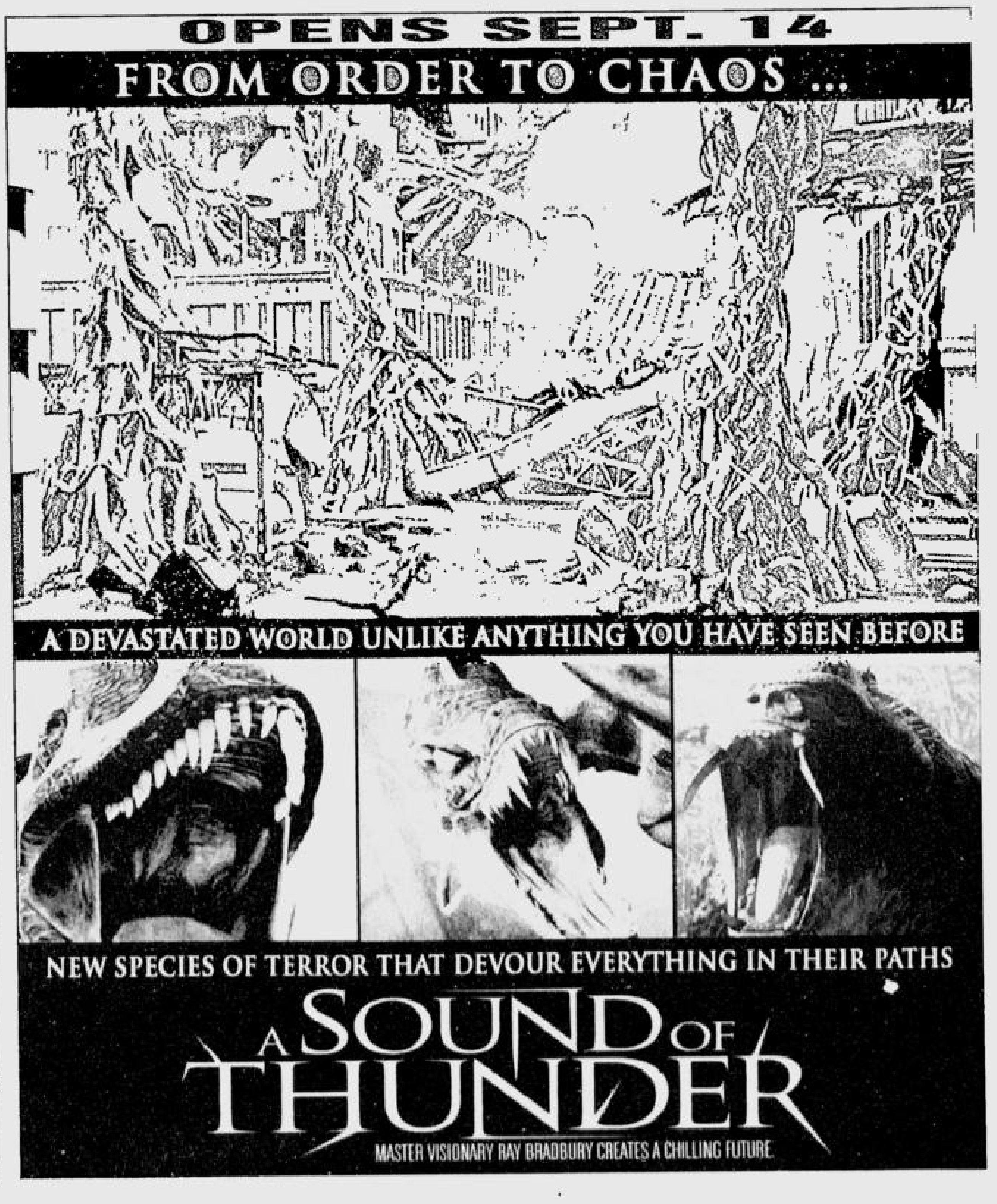
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Cover up, Muslim group tells Indian tennis star

SANIA Mirza's outfit shows too much flesh and "leaves little to the imagination," a muslim group says. AP

NEW DELHI—A MUSLIM ORGANIZATION has issued an edict demanding India's teen tennis sensation Sania Mirza cover up during matches, describing her short skirts and sleeveless shirts as "un-Islamic," newspapers reported Friday.

The 18-year-old Muslim star, the first Indian woman to break into the top 50 WTA rankings, dismissed the *fatwa*, as the edict is known. "I have nothing to say about that," she was quoted as saying by the Hindustan Times newspaper.

A top cleric of the little-known Sunni Ulema Board said he issued the *fatwa* against the 18-year-old tennis player because of her "indecent dressing" on the court and in advertisements, the Hindustan Times said.

"The dress she wears on the tennis courts not only doesn't cover large parts of her body but leaves nothing to the imagination," the newspaper quoted, Haseeb-ul-hasan Siddiqui, the cleric, as saying.

He said Islam did not permit women to wear skirts, shorts and sleeveless tops in public and that she should cover up.

Mirza was ousted last week from the US open in the fourth round—the first Indian woman to make it that far in any Grand Slam event.

Siddiqui said he was worried Mirza was becoming a role model for young generations of Muslim girls. *AP*

Old rivals collide

Federer stands in Hewitt's way again

FEDERER: Biggest danger AP

HEWITT: Another shot AFP

NEW YORK—DANGERS lurk everywhere for the top men at Grand Slam events.

The unseeded, largely unknown opponents in the early rounds. An ever-changing schedule that shifts match times from morning to night and back again. The added hype and distractions that come with a major.

And the biggest danger, Roger Federer.

"Most of the time you know if you're going to win the majors, you're going to have to beat him somewhere along the line," Lleyton Hewitt said. "Obviously, probably later in the tournament."

Hewitt knows that better than most. He's played—and lost to—Federer in four of his last six Grand Slam appearances, and now has to take another crack at him in Saturday's semifinals at the US Open.

The third-seeded Hewitt continued the run of dramatic quarterfinals Thursday, needing five sets to beat Jarkko Nieminen, 2-6, 6-1, 3-6, 6-3, 6-1, a day after Andre Agassi's instant classic against James Blake.

And Federer? He dispensed with the drama, brushing aside No. 11 David Nalbandian, 6-2, 6-4, 6-1, in a cool 1 hour, 40 minutes Thursday night.

"Maybe we had enough men's tennis over the last few days," said Federer, the only semifinalist who didn't play five sets in the quarters.

Federer and Hewitt are old foes, having played each other 17 times during the last six seasons. For the first few years, Hewitt had the decisive edge, winning all but two of their first nine meetings.

But that was back before Federer transformed himself into the most imposing player of his generation. Since a first-round loss at the 2003 French Open, he's gone 183-17 and won five Grand Slam titles. He's already won Wimbledon this year—for a third time—and has lost only three matches. He's won 33 straight hard-court matches, one behind Pete Sampras' record. And he's got an 8-0 streak against Hewitt.

"I know he's so tough," Federer, however, said. "He's definitely put himself into positions all the time.

"If he beats me, right away he's in contention for No. 1 in the world or he can win a big tournament again. I've been standing in his way, and I think he knows that. The more chances he'll get, the more chances are that he's also going to beat me." *AP*

Sharapova hopes for vengeance vs Clijsters

NEW YORK—THE NEARLY WOMAN OF TENnis will take on the golden girl at the US Open on Friday when Kim Clijsters and Maria Sharapova square off for a place in the final.

On one side of the net stands Belgian Clijsters, with six titles in 2005 but who has been beaten in all four of her grand slam finals.

On the other stands 2004 Wimbledon champion Sharapova, whose striking looks and model-like figure have brought her millions of dollars in endorsements.

Having missed most of last season following wrist surgery, Clijsters refused to get carried away about her chances of winning a maiden slam despite arriving at Flushing Meadows as the title favorite.

"I know from day one that people have been saying that (I am favorite)," fourth seed Clijsters said. "It's a compliment but I've got a tough match ahead of me and it takes a lot of work."

Clijsters's superb three-set win over Wimbledon champion Venus Williams in the previous round would have boosted her confidence for her showdown with Sharapova, whom she has beaten in each of their three meetings.

Top seed Sharapova will contest her first US Open semifinal safe in the knowledge that she will regain the world number one ranking from Lindsay Davenport, win or lose against Clijsters.

The winner will advance the final against either last year's runner-up Elena Dementieva or twice grand slam champion Mary Pierce, who will duel in the other semifinal half. *Reuters*

US Open on Solar Sports

Solar Sports through Sports Plus will air the semifinals of the men's singles in the ongoing US Open live at 11 tonight.

Cavs add fire to backcourt

CLEVELAND, OHIO—LEBRON JAMES WILL be counting upon Damon Jones to provide a long-range shooting threat next season for the Cleveland Cavaliers, who signed the free agent guard to a four-year contract Thursday.

The National Basketball Association deal will bring the veteran point guard a reported $15 million. Jones averaged a career-high 11.6 points in 82 games and 66 starts with the Miami Heat last season.

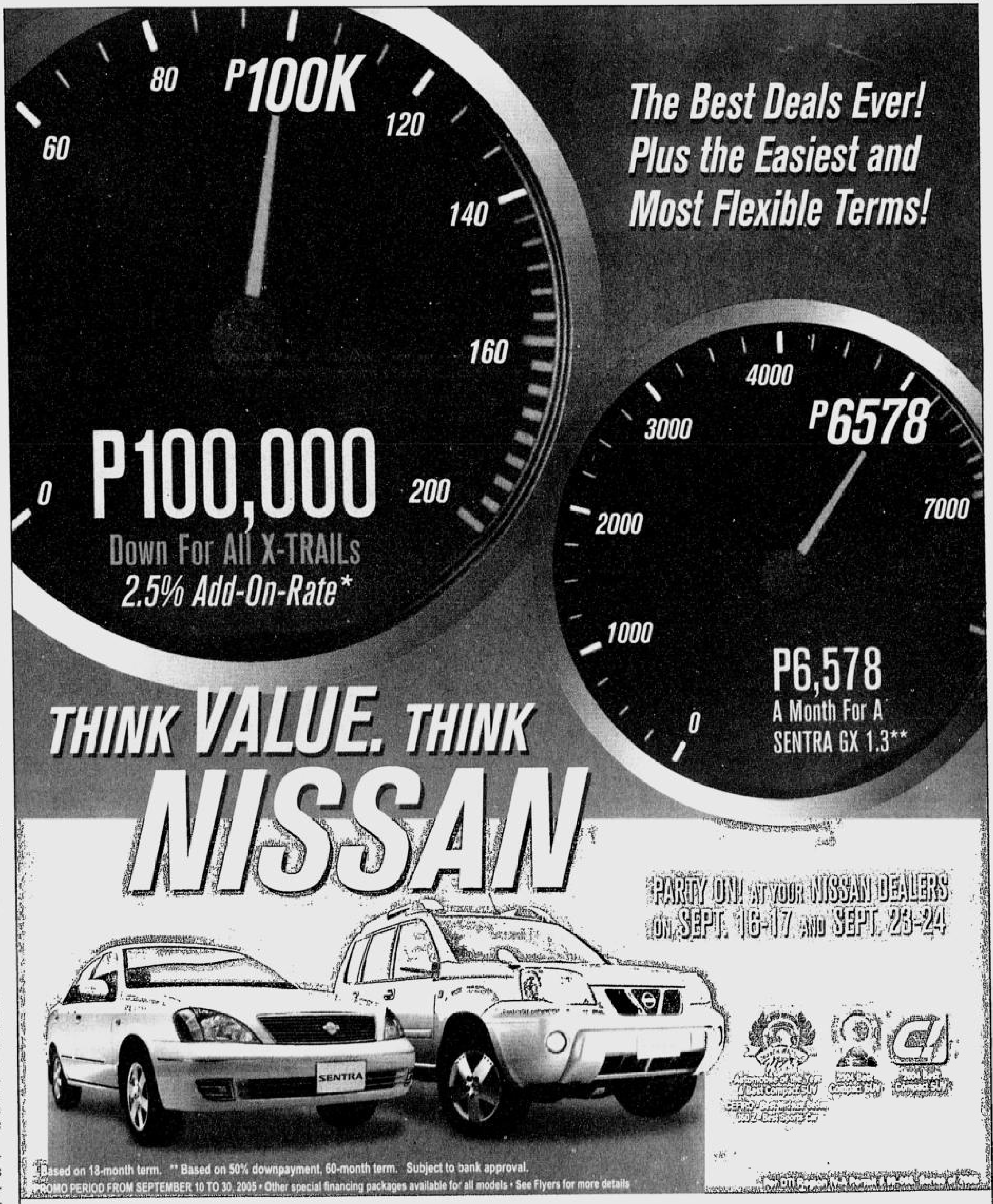
Jones ranked fifth in the NBA among three-point shooters, sinking 43.2 percent of his shots (225-of-521). That was 10 percent better than the Cavaliers' team average from beyond the arc last season.

"Damon will be a great addition to our core group," Cavaliers coach Mike Brown said. "His character, his ability to shoot the basketball from the perimeter and his playmaking skills will be a solid asset."

Jones, 29, will join Larry Hughes in forcing defenses to guard against an outside threat and potentially leave more room inside for the playmaking skills of James.

Hughes scored a career-high 22 points a game on 43 percent shooting and led the NBA with 2.9 steals in 61 games for the Washington Wizards last season.

Jones and Hughes both guided their teams into the playoffs last season while the Cavaliers went 42-40 and missed out. *AFP*



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SBC five eyes WNCAA sweep

SAN BEDA COLLEGE ALABANG EYES A SIX-game sweep of the elimination round in the WNCAA 36th season basketball when it battles La Consolacion College (3-2) in a Group A match today at the EAC Gym.

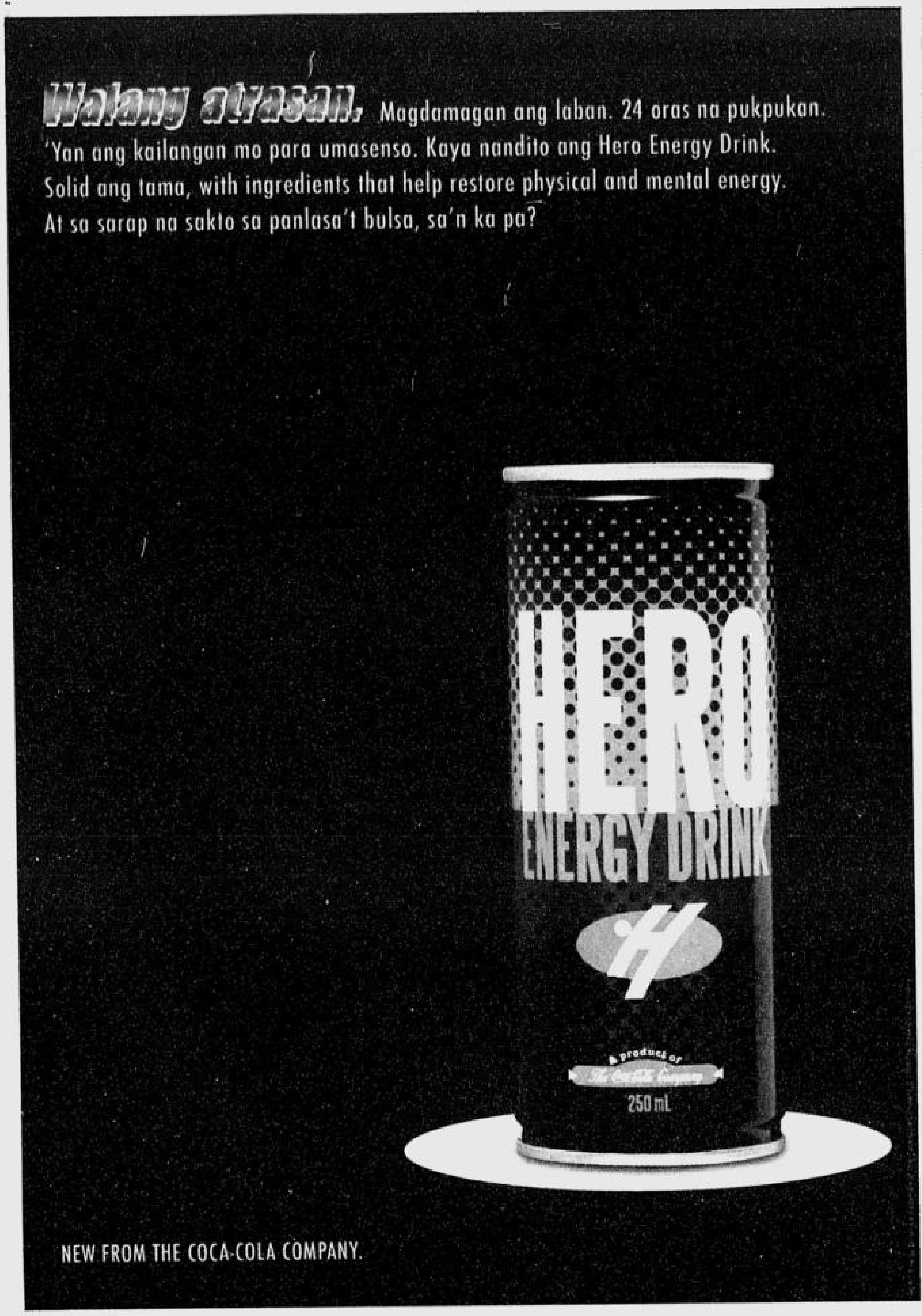
Gametime is 4:30 p.m.

Over at the Rizal Techonological University gym, St. Scholastica, Miriam and Emilio Aguinaldo College, seek their sixth wins in senior volleyball. All Group B squads tote 5-1 cards.

St. Scho tackles Siena College (2-4) at 1 p.m., Miriam battle La Consolacion (1-5) at 2:30 p.m. and EAC takes on SBCA (1-5) in the 4 p.m. game.

In the opener of the basketball schedule at 1 p.m., Miriam College targets its fifth win in seven starts against University of Asia and the Pacific (1-4) while host Emilio Aguinaldo College-Manila shoots for an even 3-3 slate against St. Scholastica's College (3-2) at 3 p.m.

In junior basketball at the St. Scho gym, Chiang Kai Shek College (4-0) battles defending champion De La Salle Zobel (3-0) at 9:30 a.m.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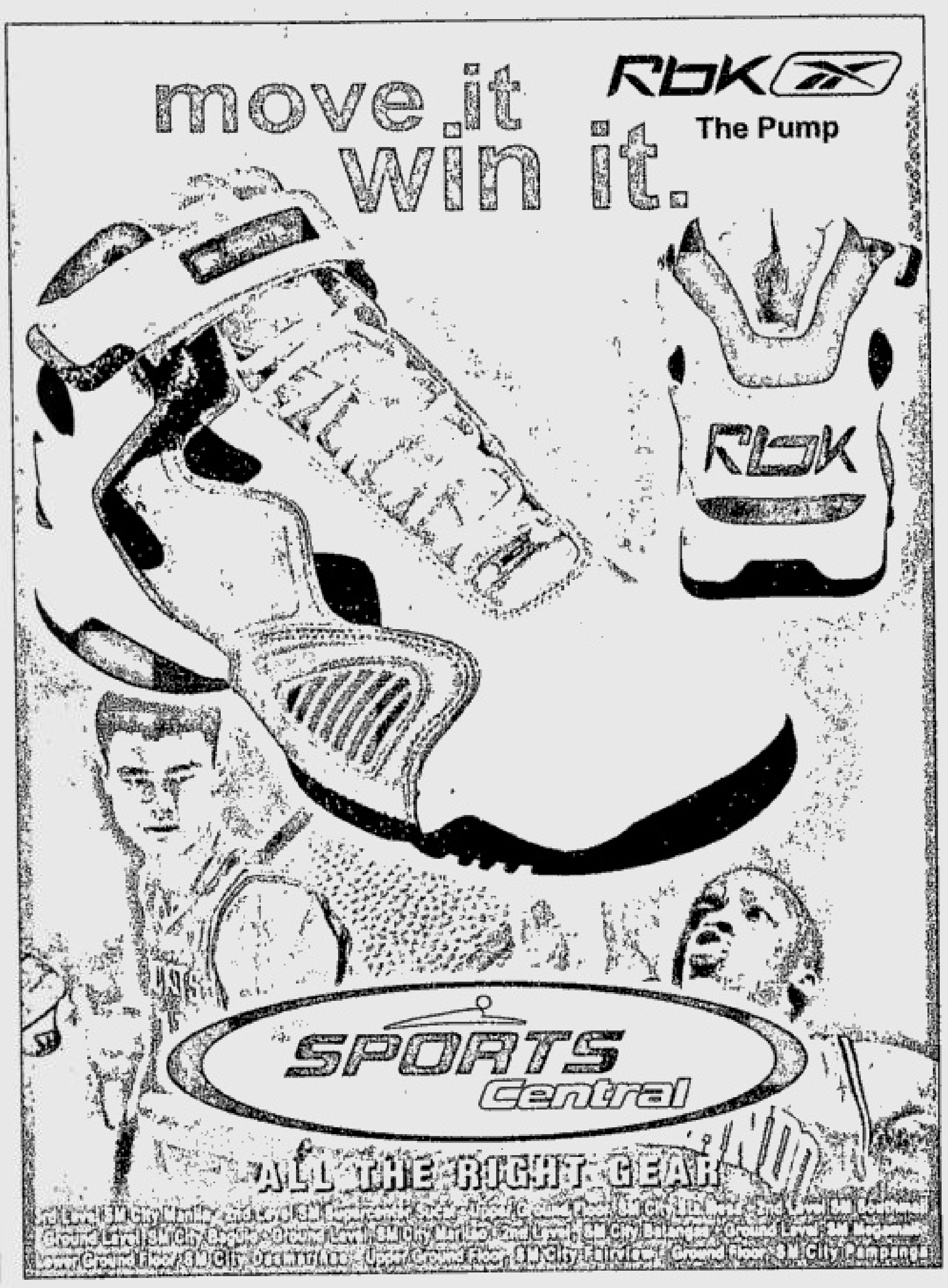

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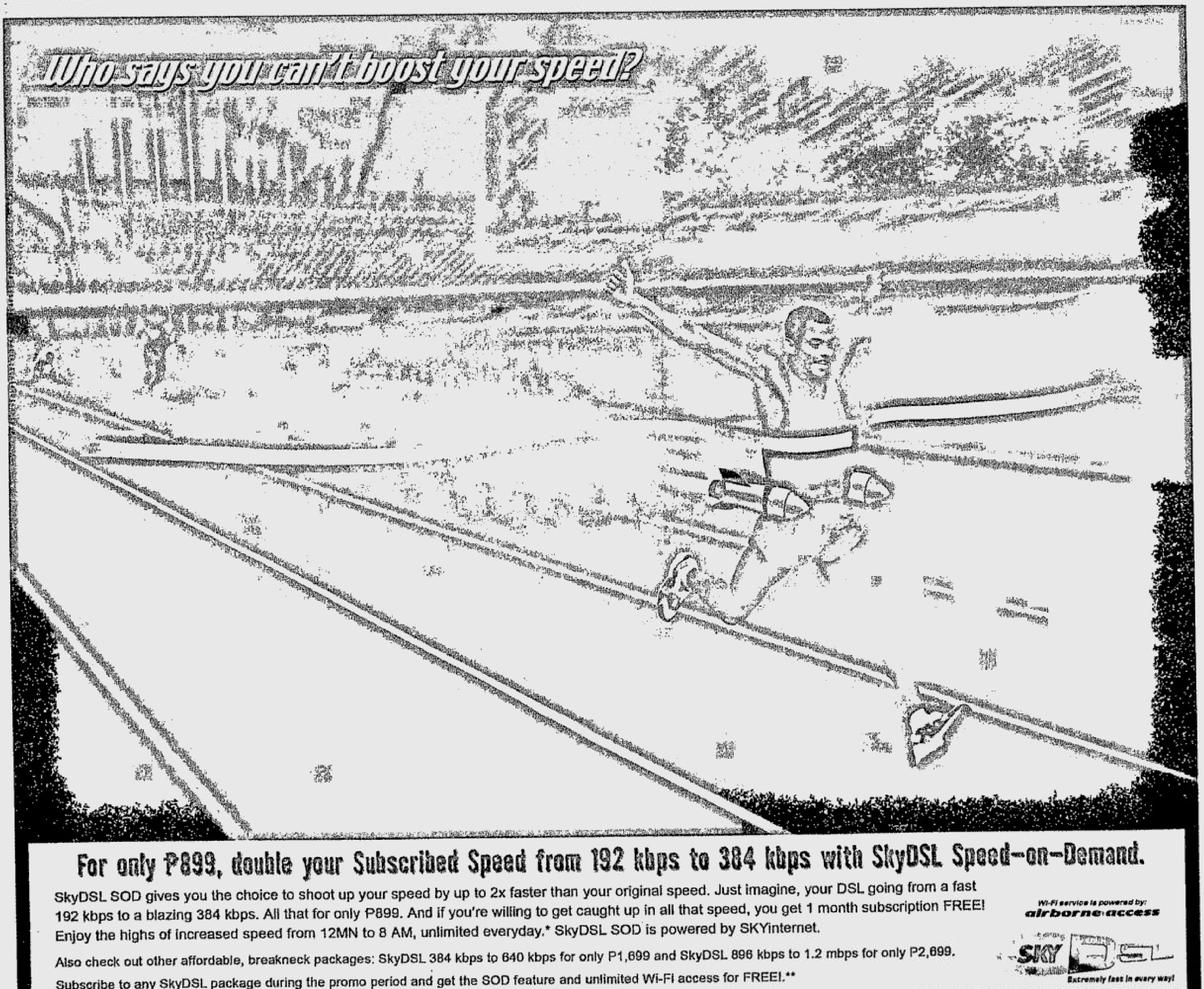
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Editor Nestor U. Torre
Assistant Editor Rito P. Asilo

MURPHY AND MCADAMS. Boy-meets-girl tale gone awry.

NOW SHOWING

Knockouts and knock-offs

By Rito P. Asilo

"Red Eye"

D: Wes Craven
S: Rachel McAdams, Cillian Murphy

"SOMETIMES, BAD THINGS HAPpen to good people," says co-passenger Jackson Ripner (Cillian Murphy) to his seatmate, hotel manager Lisa Riesert (Rachel McAdams), as they board the red-eye flight from Texas to Miami. ("Red eye" is airline jargon used to describe graveyard flights that operate between 1 to 4 am.)

Unfortunately, the "chance" meeting of two attractive strangers that initially ripples with romantic possibilities suddenly becomes a matter of life and death—and of national security!

With relentless pace, disarming performances, sizzling chemistry between Murphy and McAdams, and a welcome twist of the terrorists-and-stalkers storyline, director Wes Craven returns to the suspense-thriller genre with a surprisingly riveting boy-meets-girl tale gone awry.

As their flight takes off, the couple exchanges perfunctory pleasantries—and begins to flirt with each other. Then, from out of the blue, Jackson hands the pretty hotel manager her father's wallet—but, why? Suddenly, she finds herself entangled in a deadly game of wit and terror as she struggles to save her father's life—and herself! But, how does she fight back when, at 30,000 feet above the ground, she has nowhere to hide?

McAdams proves her acting mettle, and matches Murphy's undeniable presence with a performance that is as vulnerable as it is engaging.

Yes, the film applies some of the genre's stale conventions. On the whole, however, Craven delivers the goods, and proves why he is good at what he does—he knows how to scare people and drives them to the edge of their seats!

"Lisensyadong Kamao"

D: Tony Bernal
S: Manny Pacquiao, Eddie Garcia

Bruce (Manny Pacquiao) relocates to the big city in search of greener pastures—and to look for his runaway fiancée, Fannie (Aubrey Miles). To make ends meet, he sells *balut* and, along the way, discovers his knack for boxing. After a lackluster reunion with Fannie, and with the help of a wisecracking, business-savvy boxing promoter (Eddie Garcia), Bruce's luck begins to change for the better.

But, the talented pugilist's rise to boxing stardom doesn't go unnoticed—especially by mobsters who want a piece of his rising fortunes. As Bruce prepares for a World Title fight, the testy thugs snatch his mother, sister and Fannie to persuade him to throw away the fight. Familiar?

Pacquiao's fighting form is highlighted in 10 scenes (yes, we counted) during the film's first hour alone.

But, Bernal fails to deliver material worthy of Pacquiao's sports-hero credentials, and is unable to translate the boxer's appeal in thespic terms: Manny's sloppy attempts at humor look unintentionally funny—and flat—especially when he's made to stick out his tongue repeatedly!

The movie has a trite plot, unimaginative dialogue, and a numbing number of in-your-face product endorsements (alcohol, socks, mineral water, clothing brand—name it).

But, the movie's biggest blunders are the silly situations that its characters are subjected to, and the unverified and erroneous medical facts—something that could have easily been avoided with the help of a medical consultant.

For one, a flashlight-wielding "physician" attributes blindness to a

KNOCKOUTS/ A2-2

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Knockouts...

From page A2-1

deficiency in vitamin A intake *"sanhi ng pagkahulog niya (sa hagdan)."* Huh?

This was followed by an eye operation *without* an operating microscope or a loupe! That's a medical breakthrough, if you ask us! When Bruce's TB-stricken mother (Daria Ramirez) is examined, she is diagnosed with an "acute lung disease." Tuberculosis *is* a *chronic* affliction.

Then, there's the lesser gaffe: Bruce's All-American opponent, Rocky Stonewall, supposedly from California, looks every inch a Filipino—down to his prominent *alahas*!

We were hoping that Violett Films' success with "Magnifico" was no fluke. But, the production's follow-up, Jose Carreon's maudlin "Sa Piling ng mga Belyas," was a disappointment. Unfortunately, so is its latest flick.

DAMON AND LEDGER. Play brothers in Terry Gilliam's latest film.

"The Brothers Grimm"

D: Terry Gilliam
S: Matt Damon, Heath Ledger

During the Napoleonic Depression in 1796, Jake Grimm disposes of his family's last remaining property of value—the family cow—to help raise money for an ailing sister. Upon his return, brother Will is dumbfounded to learn that his younger brother had sold the cow in exchange for "magic beans."

Years later, the grownup brothers, Will and Jake (Matt Damon and Heath Ledger, respectively), have become folklore collectors *cum* scam artists, who pretend to drive evil spirits away from gullible townsfolk's abodes—until a foppish general (Jonathan Pryce) forcibly dispatches them to investigate genuine child disappearances. They have to face a beautiful but cursed maiden, who can lead them to the heart of the enchanted but menacing forest!

We had high hopes for Terry Gilliam's ("The Fisher King," "12 Monkeys") latest film. But, despite glowing, provocative visual flourishes, Gilliam's foray into fairytale land—in which he deconstructs and re-imagines popular fairy tales (hey, Gretel *and* Little Red Riding Hood are sisters here)—ends up muddled by narrative incoherence and cluttered spectacle, and takes the grit out of its inventive, deliciously grimy and cultish premise. Word of warning: This is no harmless children's fairy tale!

"The Long Weekend"

D: Pat Holden
S: Brendan Fehr, Chris Klein

Ed's (Brendan Fehr) life falls apart after catching his wife and best friend in bed. Things take a turn for the worse when he finds himself homeless—and a week away from getting fired from his job. His brother, Cooper (Chris Klein), comes to the rescue by planning a wild weekend of fun and sex.

We're not easily shocked, but Pat Holden takes the cake (in various colors and textures, we must add) in crass and tasteless filmmaking. And somewhere between Klein's spirited performance, Fehr's stellar presence, and Holden's gross-out humor, we just forgot to laugh.

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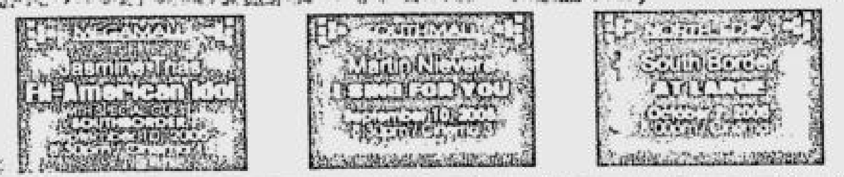

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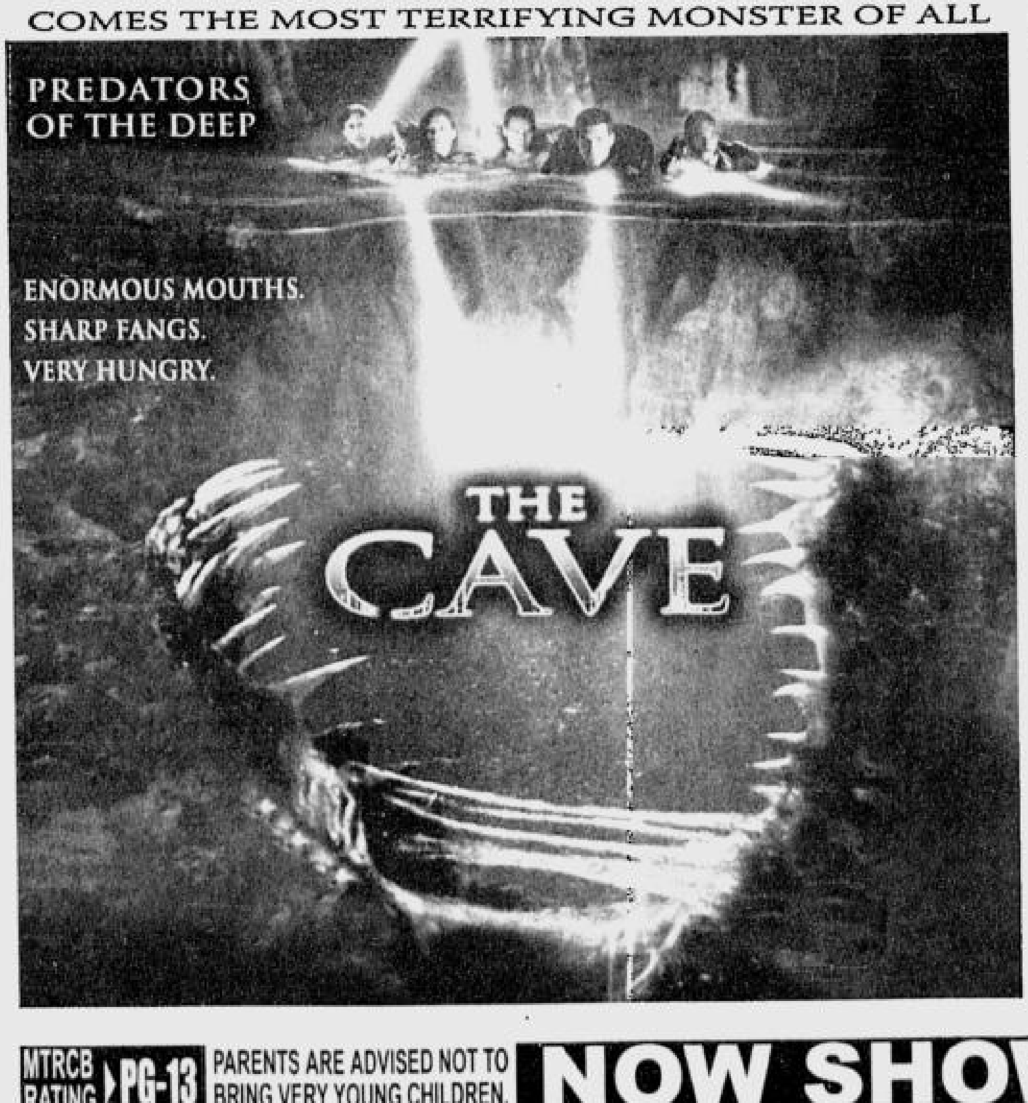

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Ron Howard comes up with another winner

By Behn Cervantes

"CINDERELLA MAN." A boxing film with heart, body and soul.

I DON'T LIKE BOXING SINCE, AS FAR as I'm concerned, it merely legalizes brawling: Two men beating each other's brains out as a maddened audience screams with sadistic glee-?! Why should I see movies that glorify a dubious sport? After all, it has caused multiple deaths, countless damaged brains as well as the ruination of a beautiful hunk like Ali.

On the other hand, boxing as a sport was always present in my childhood. I had an uncle who was known as Kid Davao in Mindanao. My elder brother, Bob, was a boxer at UP. Boxing was considered a manly sport. You sparred with chums and punched bags to keep in step with the times.

Champion

Boxing is likewise glorified in the movies. "Gentleman Jim" was supposedly about the colorful career of the second heavyweight champion of the world. As portrayed by Errol Flynn, Jim was a lovable dandy who handily knocked out John L. Sullivan. Of course, the hero is always portrayed as the underdog, so we cheered when he finally knocked out Goliath.

It wasn't till years later that I bothered to see another boxing thriller. It was a Rossen movie that involved the manipulation of boxers by gambling lords. John Garfield in the 1947 *noir*, "Body and Soul," played a young fighter who bucks the system.

"Body and Soul" may well have established the tone for later movies about boxing, although Clifford Odets' "Golden Boy" had already put humanity into its story. Often, the tyro (William Holden) is forced into the cruel arena, while a loyal woman (Barbara Stanwyck) gives him moral support but doomed love.

Boxing spectacles focus on dilemma and the accompanying brutality in the arena. But, the serious approach in boxing flicks ended when "Rocky" exploded on the big screen with astounding box-office success.

Sylvester Stallone as Rocky was a muscle-bound, lisping David who nevertheless pummeled Goliaths with surprising ease. While the series underscored physical effort, it still glorified the brutality inherent in the sport, although the producers (including Sly) knew how to channel our glee to the right combatant.

Predictable

Therefore, I was hesitant to see "Cinderella Man." Another boxing film with predictable results, I told myself? The glum Russell Crowe is transferred from Rome to a New York arena?

But, what finally drew me to see it is Ron Howard, a director who has the magical talent of infusing whatever subject he handles with intimacy, humanity and affection. You emerge from the darkened moviehouse feeling great, and eager to be a part of the world.

Rare instance

I never imagined I would be affected by "Apollo 13." As one critic described the movie: "It is a rare instance where special effects actually serve the story and help make it completely credible." Howard does the same in "Cinderella Man." He elicits simple but sensitive performances from Crowe, Reneé Zellweger, and the lovable tots who play their quietly suffering children.

Howard reaps a bumper crop of fine performances from his cast and, once again, exploits details to enrich ambience, specify the period and provide the proper feel. Most of all, Howard provides a film about the brutal sport with surprising gentility and tender love—with heart, body and soul!

Star complex

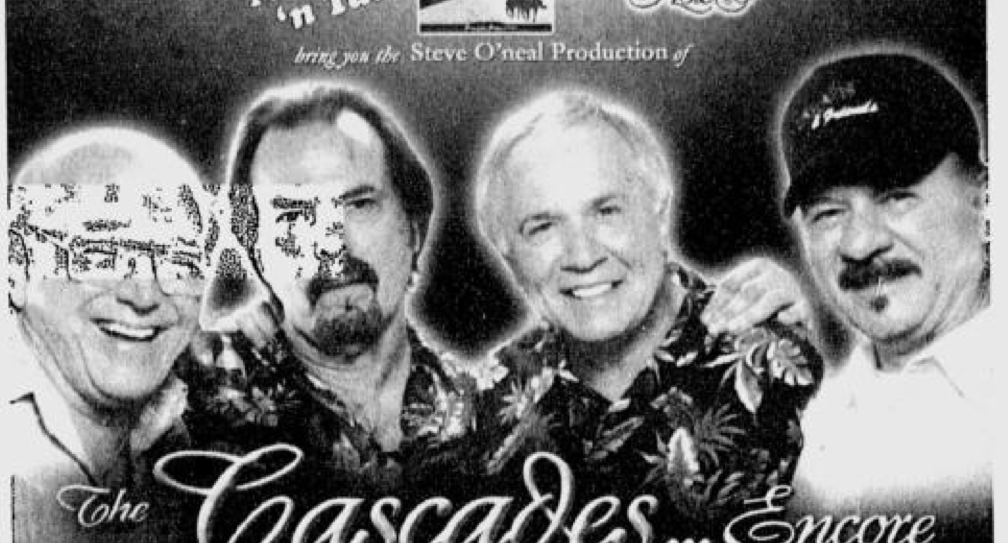
From page A2-4

think: "I am the master, and people are meant to serve me. I am number one." Instead of seeing himself as humble servant of God, he sees himself as the center of the world.

Rich and famous

We don't have to be rich and famous to be infected with the "I, Me, Mine" complex. We have to be careful not to let the false ego influences us.

We must remember our humble position as servants of the Supreme Being, and act accordingly by rendering loving service to Him. This way, we will be truly happy!



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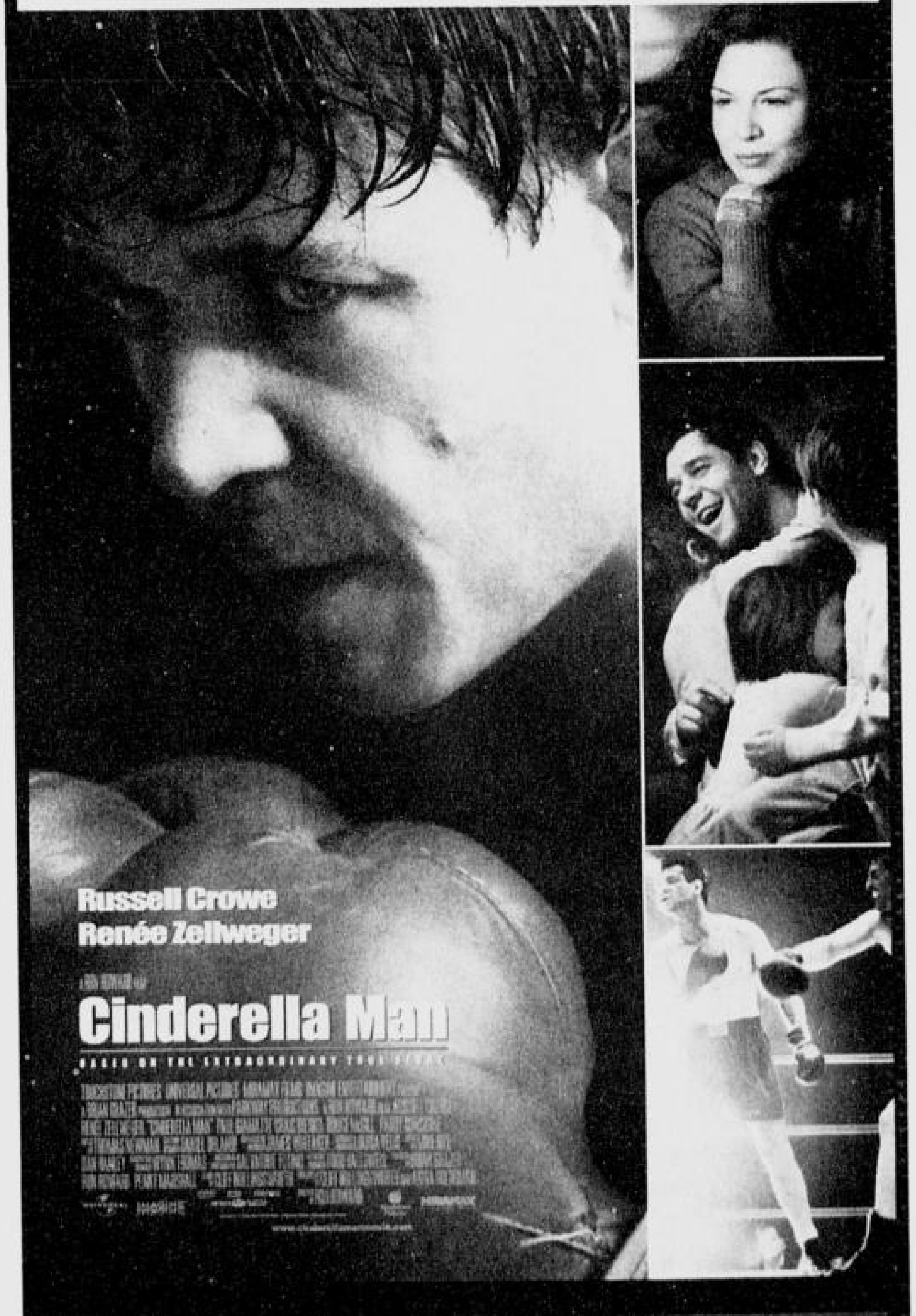

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Two in a row for Michiko Yamamoto

YAMAMOTO. Penchant for stories about odd men out.

By Nestor U.Torre

FIL-JAPANESE SCREENWRITER MICHIKO Yamamoto first served notice that she was a major new talent when her maiden script, "Magnifico," was filmed by Maryo J. delos Reyes, and the film won numerous local and international honors.

After that initial triumph, Michiko was hired by a number of TV and movie studios to do more scripts. But, she generally found the experience so demeaning that she dropped out of the screen scene for a time.

Showcase

Then came the Cinemalaya showcase for new filmmakers, and Michiko was encouraged to come out of exceedingly premature retirement. True to her penchant for stories about odd men out, she submitted the storyline for "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros," about a gay adolescent belonging to a family of petty hoods who falls in love with a handsome and honest cop.

The story was picked as one of the tilt's 30 semi-finalists, which were then expanded into full screenplays, from which the competition's 10 finalists were selected. Happily, "Pagdadalaga" survived the cut. Each funded by a seed grant of P500,000 from Tonyboy Cojuangco, the 10 finalists were shot then screened during the Cinemalaya filmfest.

When the awards were handed out, Doy del Mundo's "Pepot Artista" won as best picture, and "Pagdadalaga" got the special Jury Prize, effectively winning second place.

Even better, "Pagdadalaga" was one of the most popular new movies in the digital filmfest, captivating viewers with its disarmingly idiosyncratic view of life and love in the dark, fetid underbelly of the big city.

Best of all, just two months after the Cinemalaya festival, "Pagdadalaga" recently won the Golden Zenith award for best first film at the 29th Montreal World Film Festival in Canada.

Unanimous

The jury's decision was unanimous, and the citation singled out the production's "impressive quasi-documentary style, and its spirit of humanity and tolerance." Kudos to Michiko, director Aureus Solito and producer Raymond Lee for the signal honor.

Solito and Lee were at Montreal to accept the award, but Michiko was nowhere in sight. To people who knew her, this was no surprise because, even in the Philippines, the acclaimed young screenwriter has never personally accepted the many writing awards she's won.

She's painfully shy, that's why—an exceedingly rare personal characteristic in the genetically puffed-up world of local show business! But, that's only one of the unique qualities that sets Michiko apart from her show biz colleagues.

The wonder is, the very "different" Michiko is now one of the local film scene's most admired denizens. Which just goes to show that viewers and jurors can spot an original talent when they see one, and will gratefully reward originality because that's what Filipino movies sorely lack.

Original

What makes Michiko so different, and thus so original? Her friends cite her "dramatic" personal life, but you'll hear absolutely nothing about that from the exceedingly recondite, enigmatic and inscrutable Michiko.

Not to worry, though. Personal insights may not be forthcoming, but Michiko's view of life, dark though they may sometimes be, is awash with love. And, for most viewers, that's more than enough!

With only two films under her belt to date, Michiko Yamamoto has scored a classic one-two punch that has film buffs reeling with admiration.

What'll she do for her third outing? Our hunch is that she'll be directing her third masterpiece. Now, *that's* something to really look forward to!

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Star complex

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R. Valencia and S. Bismark

HAVE YOU HEARD about the singer who would swear at his fans? Worse than that, he would punch them when he got irritated.

He was charged in court for abusive behavior and got punished for it. However, since he was popular, he was only given a light sentence.

Why do such people behave the way they do? The "star" complex can be described as the attitude of a person who thinks, "I am great, I am master and lord—my will be done." And if people don't bow to his will, he gets offended.

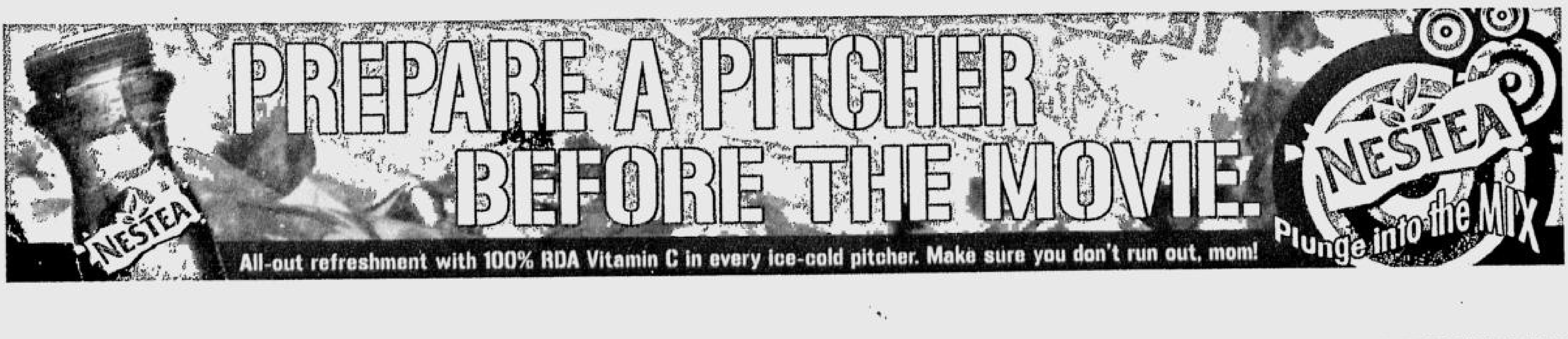
Model

A highly-paid commercial model is known to keep everyone waiting by reporting late for shoots. She couldn't care less if she wastes everyone's time. It is the "I, Me, Mine" complex.

Spiritual sages explain this phenomenon as the covering of the person by the false ego. The spirit soul is covered by the physical body that we see externally, and by the subtle bodies known as the mind, intelligence and false ego. The false ego is the false concept of the person regarding himself.

The soul is by nature the minute spiritual spark—part and parcel of the Supreme Being that is meant to render loving service to the Supreme. This is the real ego. But, when influenced by the false ego, the person begins to

STAR/ A2-3



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Hollywood turns dramatic

PALTROW. Reprises her triumph on the stage for the big screen.

LOS ANGELES—AFTER A summer when weary action flicks and television remakes failed to fire up movie fans, Hollywood hopes to turn things around with films that put new faces and the Oscar race in the spotlight.

The summer season ended and box-office experts expected ticket sales to be down about 10 percent from last year's record $3.9 billion as films like "Stealth," "The Island" and, to a lesser extent, "Bewitched," failed to become big hits.

One refrain heard around Hollywood was that this summer's films were just not good enough, and that fans want originality rather than reruns.

Sequels

The upcoming schedule features only two sequels officially designated as "part two"—thriller "Saw II" in October and the family comedy, "Cheaper by the Dozen 2," in December—although titles like November's "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" certainly qualify as follow-ons.

"Lords of the Rings" director Peter Jackson's remake of a signature Hollywood film, "King Kong," opens in December. He promises a fresh take on the beauty and the beast classic.

As is typical when teens head to school, the film industry goes light on the comic-book action and kid comedy that fill the summer and focus heavily on human dramas that appeal to older audiences.

"The Weather Man," starring Nicolas Cage, fits in the drama niche with a tale about a father in a mid-life crisis. It is funny, but the humor is dark. And, though its message is life-affirming, it could make audiences uneasy.

Mentally-ill father

This month, Gwyneth Paltrow reprises her role in the award-winning play, "Proof," as a woman caring for her mentally-ill father, played by Anthony Hopkins. Early buzz for the long-awaited film has Paltrow rehoning the acting skills that earned her a best actress Oscar for "Shakespeare in Love."

Viggo Mortensen, on the other hand, plays a small-town husband who gets targeted by the mob in the thriller, "A History of Violence."

War and Middle East politics seem to be weighing on Hollywood's mind with the widely-anticipated "Jarhead" hitting screens in early November, followed by "Syriana" and, in December, Steven Spielberg's "Munich."

"Jarhead" is based on Anthony Swofford's best-selling book, and it details his days as a US sniper in the 1991 Gulf War. Directed by Sam Mendes ("American Beauty"), it stars Jake Gyllenhaal, Jamie Foxx and Peter Sarsgaard.

Another Oscar winner, Stephen Gaghan, who wrote the drug-dealing drama, "Traffic," gives audiences "Syriana," which tells three disparate stories that revolve around oil and Arab politics. It stars George Clooney, Matt Damon and Amanda Peet.

Massacre

For "Munich," Spielberg re-visits the 1972 massacre of 11 Israeli athletes after they were taken hostage by Palestinians during the Munich Olympics. Like the other two war films, it is high on this year's award watchlist.

Director Tim Burton, whose "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" was one of this summer's fresh surprises, brings out a tale of tortured love with "Tim Burton's Corpse Bride." It uses the stop-action puppetry—not computer-generated animation—he employed in "Nightmare Before Christmas."

Art, not commerce, is the key driving force in the Oscar race, and George Clooney's "Good Night and Good Luck," a black-and-white film about newsman Edward R. Murrow and Sen. Joe McCarthy's war on communism, figures prominently.

Also on the watchlist are "The Constant Gardner" and "Capote," with Philip Seymour Hoffman as the American writer. Must-see October titles are Cameron Crowe's "Elizabethtown" and "Shopgirl," based on the novel by comedian Steve Martin.

The Oscar race picks up in November with Reese Witherspoon and Joaquin Phoenix in the Johnny Cash biopic, "Walk the Line," and the musical, "Rent."

December features the widely-anticipated "Memoirs of a Geisha," "Brokeback Mountain," "All the King's Men" and a film based on Mel Brooks' popular Broadway musical, "The Producers," which in turn was based on Brooks' popular film. Reuters

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The diabetes awareness drive will begin at the *Healthy Options* store in Shangri-la Plaza in Mandaluyong on September 10 and a second run on October 2. Other participating stores of *Healthy Options* are SM Megamall (September 11, October 8), SM City North EDSA (September 17, October 9), SM City Pampanga (September 18, October 15), Rustan's Supermarket, Makati (September 24, October 16), Festival Supermall, Alabang (September 25, October 22) and SM City Manila (October 1, October 23). All blood glucose screenings in participating *Healthy Options* stores are scheduled from 4 pm to 7 pm.

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2 THE BROTHERS GRIMM
11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00

3 SKY HIGH
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

4 THE CAVE
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

5 THE LONG WEEKEND
1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00

6 RED EYE
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

7 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
12:20 2:40 5:00 7:20 9:40

8 LISENSYADONG KAMAO
1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00

9 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

10 MUST LOVE DOGS
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

ERMITA
536-7809 to 12

1 RED EYE
10:10 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 9:50

2 THE LONGEST YARD
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

3 LISENSYADONG KAMAO
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4 THE CAVE
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5 THE BROTHERS GRIMM
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6 THE LONG WEEKEND
10:30 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 9:50

7 SKY HIGH
10:30 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

METRO EAST
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1 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

2 THE CAVE
1:40 4:10 6:40 9:10

3 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

4 SKY HIGH
2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

5 THE LONGEST YARD
1:40 4:00 6:20 9:00

6 RED EYE
12:35 2:45 4:55 7:05 9:15

7 THE BROTHERS GRIMM
1:05 3:45 6:25 9:05

8 LISENSYADONG KAMAO
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

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1 LISENSYADONG KAMAO
2 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

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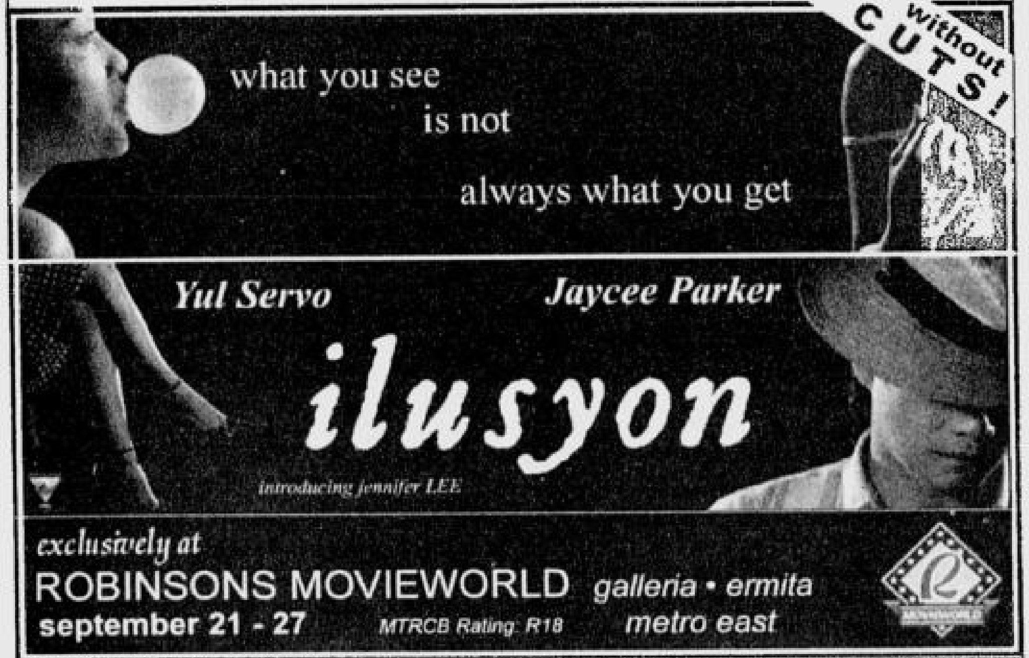
1 RED EYE
2 THE BROTHERS GRIMM
3 THE CAVE
4 THE LONG WEEKEND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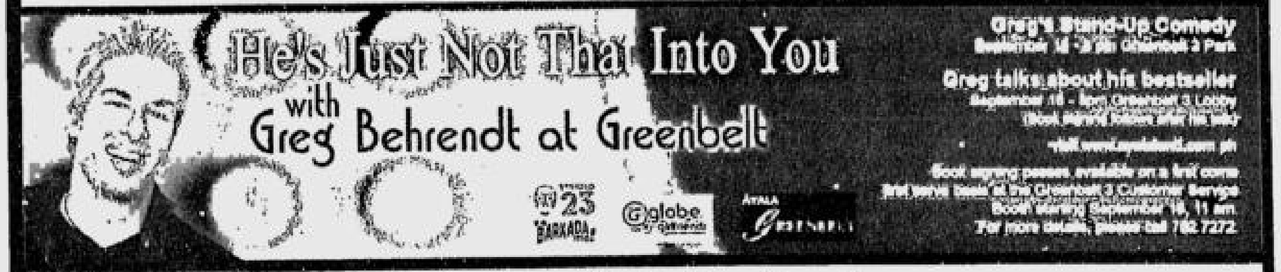

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G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 LONG WEEKEND	2 THE CAVE	3 THX RED EYE 12:30 2:30 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 LORDS OF DOGTOWN	5 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD	6 THE BROTHERS GRIMM	7 SKY HIGH
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 THE BROTHERS GRIMM 10:55, 1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:45	2 RED EYE 11:00, 12:55, 2:50, 4:45, 6:40, 8:35		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX THE BROTHERS GRIMM 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX RED EYE 1:55, 3:50, 5:45, 7:40, 9:35, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 THE LONGEST YARD 1:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 THE CAVE 1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:20, 9:25, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 LONG WEEKEND 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
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	3 LONG WEEKEND	4 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD	5 SKY HIGH	
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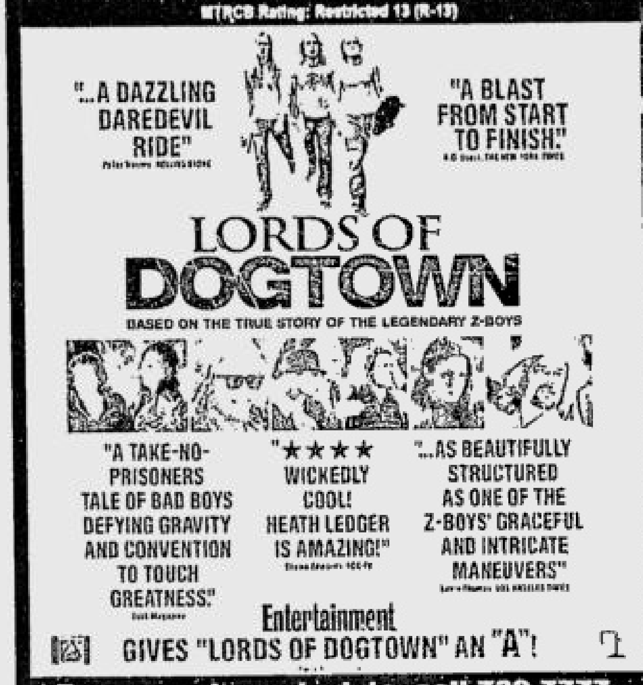

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Maksim brings classical music to the mainstream

By Jocelyn Valle

CROATIAN PIANO SENSATION MAKSIM MRvica was seven years old when he felt the lure of the ivory keys. "I saw a piano at a friend's house, and I was attracted to it," he recalls. "Nobody was using it, so I learned how to."

Then, the once sports-obsessed kid started taking formal lessons, and soon after, gave his first public performance at age nine. Three years later, he was already performing Haydn's piano concerto in C major with an orchestra.

At a young age, Maksim, whose family wasn't into music, knew what he wanted to be, and he was willing to pay the price: "I trained so much that I didn't have time to see my friends anymore," he shakes his head. "But, it was a decision I made for myself."

MAKSIM. Willing to pay the price.

Fortunate

The musician was fortunate to have family and friends who supported his endeavors, especially when the Serbo-Croatian war (which lasted for four years) broke out in 1991. Those were tough times, he shares—he was forbidden to play! But, tension only fueled his passion.

In 1993, Maksim won his first major competition in the Croatian capital of Zagreb, which he now considers as his "greatest victory,"—and the most wonderful memory of his career!

It was the first of many accolades he was to receive as a student of classical music in Budapest, Hungary and France, and later, as a celebrated recording artist.

With his albums, "The Piano Player," "Gestures" and the recent "Variations Parts I and II," the 30-year-old musician realizes his dream of "reaching out to as many people as possible."

Version

In "Variations," for example, he has a version of Queen's rock classic, "Bohemian Rhapsody." He admits to being initially skeptical about experimenting, but he eventually gave in when Tolga Kashif, who's known to be one of the most diversely talented musicians, agreed to arrange the piece for him.

The result is as delightfully engaging as the rest of the 14-track CD. The opener, "Kolibre," makes one feel like a competitive gymnast doing a winning floor-exercise routine, and then, like an eventual victor in the third cut, "Olympic Dream."

For purists, there are classical treats like Tchaikovsky's "Piano Concerto No. 1 in B Flat Minor, Third Movement," Liszt's "Totentanz" and Chopin's "Nocturne in E Flat Major, Op. 9 No. 2."

Impact

Maksim singles out Chopin as having the most impact on his music. As for his personal life, however, he declares he's just a regular guy. With a slim but muscular frame clothed in jeans and a funky shirt. He makes classical music hipper, sexier and more accessible.

He's nothing like David Helfgott (brought to life by Geoffrey Rush in "Shine"), he laughs. He describes himself as adventurous— though joining "Fear Factor" would be a big stretch for him. "But, oh, I've eaten bugs!," he quips.

'Wish Ko Lang' goes beyond giving

By Nestor U. Torre

FOR QUITE A LONG TIME NOW, WE'VE stopped viewing "wish-fulfillment" shows on television. We simply found them too escapist and fairy-taleish. They did help some letter-senders improve their finances, but many of their benefits were short-lived.

However, we're glad that we caught a recent telecast of "Wish Ko Lang," because its first story deviated drastically from the desultory norm. It focused on a saleslady who walked an hour each morning to get to the clothing stall in Baclaran where she worked. Late at night, she trudged all the way back home, because she didn't have transportation money.

After all, she was her family's sole breadwinner, and she was being paid only P100 a day. With that small amount, she had to buy food for her jobless husband and their child. To be fair to him, he was no bum: He did the housework while his wife was selling clothes.

Dream

The letter-writer's dream was for her to work in a department store. Before fulfilling that wish, however, the show helped her loved ones: The husband was given a fried chicken stall, and their daughter got her fondest wish—to finally go to school!

All that taken care of, the show focused on the woman. It gave her a makeover, took her on a shopping spree for new clothes—and found her the saleslady job she'd always dreamed of, in a big department store.

Of course, the letter-sender was ecstatic about the gifts her family received from "Wish Ko Lang." But, we liked the fact that those bounties weren't handed out to them on a silver platter. The fried chicken business has to be sustained. The saleslady job is no vacation. The little girl has to study hard to maintain her scholarship. So, there are no free rides in this wish-fulfillment story.

Acutely real

We also warmed up to this particular letter-sender and her family because they weren't melodramatic and hysterical when the show's bounties started coming. Their need was acutely real, but they didn't wallow in its misery.

They retained a basic sense of self-respect and even nobility that impressed us. Yes, they were dirt-poor and relatively unlettered, but they weren't going to make a spectacle of their lives just to get some freebies from the show.

This is in sharp contrast to many other recipients of bounties on TV, who play victims to the hilt, coming off more like bathetic, melodramatic performers than real people in genuine need.

We trust that wish-fulfillment shows and their beneficiaries will take this more self-respecting tack from here on in. It would make them more viewable and truly inspiring, and encourage other needy people to go beyond wishing for a fairy godmother to solve all their problems, and instead work hard to improve their own lives.

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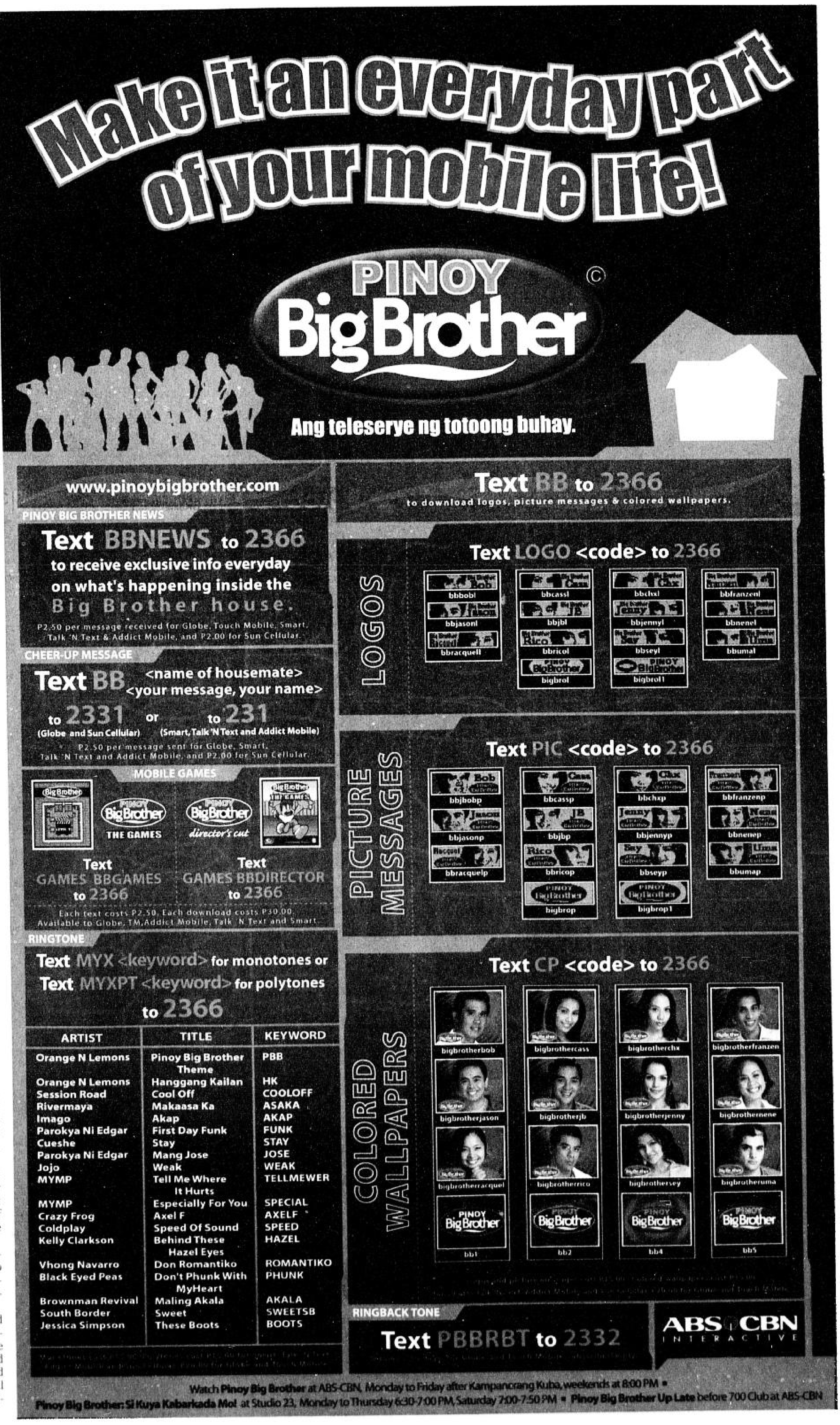

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Cueshe	Stay	STAY
Parokya Ni Edgar	Mang Jose	JOSE
Jojo	Weak	WEAK
MYMP	Tell Me Where It Hurts	TELLMEWER
MYMP	Especially For You	SPECIAL
Crazy Frog	Axel F	AXELF
Coldplay	Speed Of Sound	SPEED
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Vhong Navarro	Don Romantiko	ROMANTIKO
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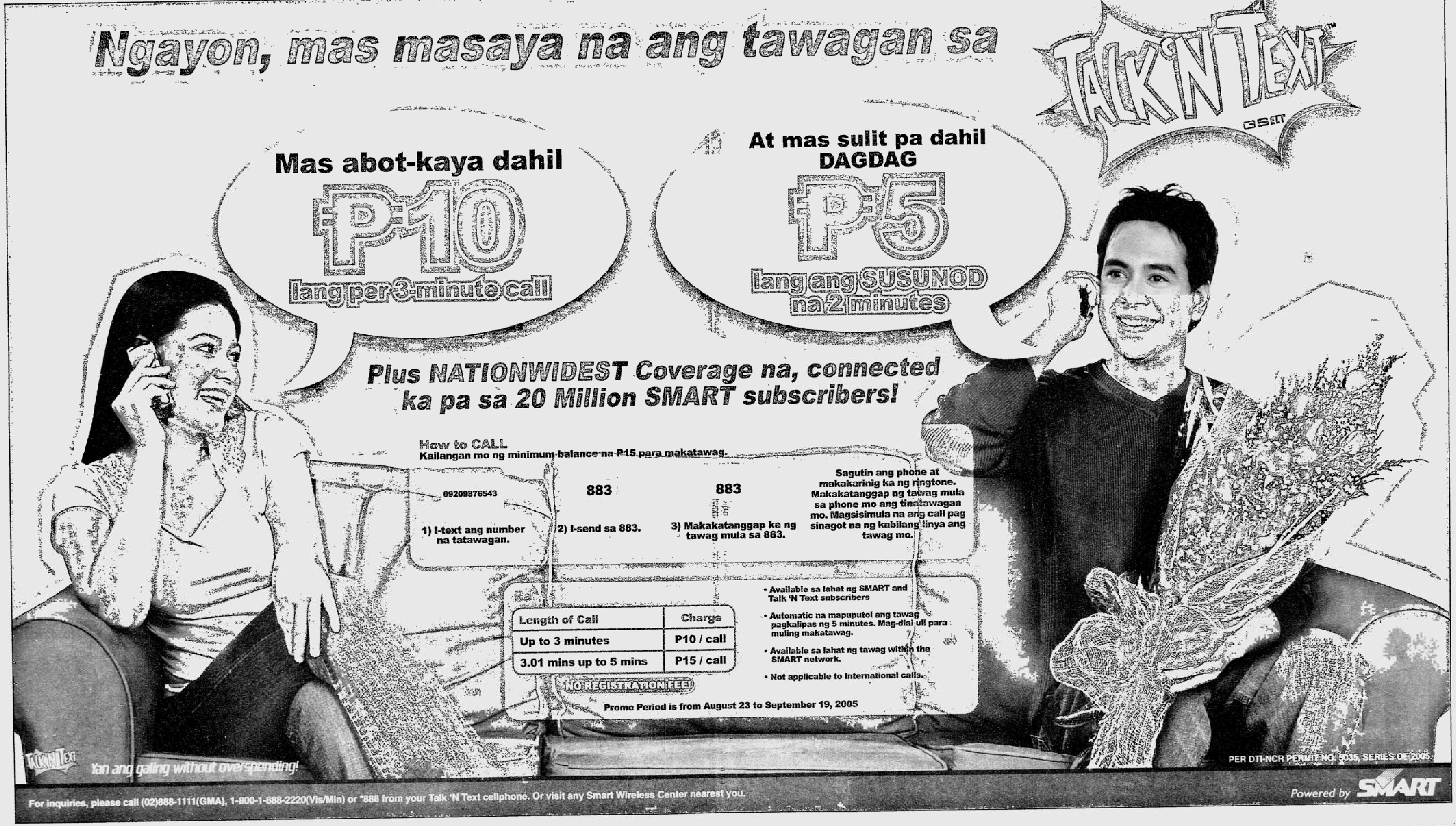

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Grief and drama in the movies

FROM MARVIN SALUMBIDES: "I am a film buff who's partial to dramas. I loved how Francois Ozon examined grief and despair in 'Under the Sand,' and how Christopher Nolan explored Bruce Wayne's mourning in 'Batman Begins.' Any other viewing suggestions along the same lines?"

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

LANE. Played an art critic who bought a decrepit mansion after her husband dumped her.

We have been thinking more and more about how grief and guilt are dealt with in cinema and the theater, because of our involvement with the staging of Bryony Lavery's gripping play, "Frozen." Yes, those are testy subjects. Commercial filmmakers, in fact, usually avoid depressing topics, but these are a slice of life that we can't simply ignore. And, you'll be surprised—they *can* be inspiring as well!

Subject

A number of movies have successfully tackled the subject, and have emerged triumphant. These movies aren't as rare as you'd think. For one, the grief of Mel Gibson's character over his dead wife made his role unpredictably appealing in the "Lethal Weapon" series.

In Lars von Trier's "Breaking the Waves," when a grief-stricken oilman, Jan (Stellan Skarsgaard), returns home an invalid, he instructs his wife (Emily Watson) to make love to as many men as possible. Feeling guilty for praying so hard to bring back her husband at all cost, she gives in to Jan's demands.

In Audrey Wells' "Under the Tuscan Sun," art critic Frances (Diane Lane) impulsively buys a decrepit mansion in the Italian countryside after her husband dumps her. In Roger Michell's unsettling "Enduring Love," a group of rescuers deal with the death of the person they fail to save.

In Jae-Young Kwak's "My Sassy Girl," a sadistic but charismatic waif (Ji-Hyun Jun of "Il Mare") grieves over a failed relationship. On the subway, Kyun-Woo (Tae-Hyun Cha, "Lover's Concerto") pulls back the drunken girl as she is about to fall in front of a train.

GIBSON. The grief of his character in "Lethal Weapon" made the role unpredictably appealing.

In Iranian film master Abbas Kiarostami's "A Taste of Cherry," a loquacious, middle-aged driver of a luxurious Range Rover is on a mission to find someone who will help him kill himself. In Ozon's "Under the Sand," a university professor downward-spirals into delusion and denial when her husband goes missing at the beach, and is never seen again.

Enigmatic diver

In Luc Besson's enchanting "The Big Blue," an enigmatic diver (Jean Marc Barr) is torn between his love for a girl and for the surreal world of the big ocean—or, is he still searching for his lost father?

In Mike Figgis' "Leaving Las Vegas," Benjamin (Nicolas Cage), an alcoholic who's lost his family and his job, moves to Las Vegas to deliberately drink himself to death over the course of four weeks.

In Thomas McCarthy's "The Station Agent," a dwarf, Finbar (Peter Dinklage), moves to an old shack in New Jersey to live a life in isolation—until he meets a motor-mouth vendor (Bobby Cannavale) and a lonely painter (Patricia Clarkson), who mourns for the loss of a child.

In Nanni Moretti's "The Son's Room," a psychoanalyst and his wife lose their son after a scuba-diving accident. They squeeze out memories of him from the girl he last saw—whom they hardly know!

Secrets

In Ferzan Ozpeteks' "His Secret Life," when her husband suddenly dies, a lady doctor (Margherita Buy) finds out secrets that he'd been keeping from her—he was cheating on her with another man!

In Krzysztof Kieslowski's "Blue," Julie (Juliette Binoche) loses her famous composer-husband and her young daughter in a car accident. And in Kieslowski's "Dekalog 9," a take on the ninth commandment—"thou shall not covet thy neighbor's wife"—a surgeon who is diagnosed to be impotent plunges into suicidal depression, and urges his wife to take a lover.

Grieving is dealt with differently, each one in desperate search for meaning or healing. These films showcase a tableau of how a wide range of protagonists deal with anguish and melancholia.

The film biz is changing

By Nestor U. Torre

ON THE LOCAL FILM SCENE, MAJOR NEGATIVE changes have been taking place that have rattled movie people and made them conjure up even bleaker thoughts of the future.

If it's any consolation, it turns out that Filipino film people aren't alone in their predicament. In fact, the entire film world is suffering, and an investigation of the common factors involved should help us understand, not just the general situation, but also our country's own film crisis.

Reasons

In the United States, current film receipts are down six percent from last year's monthly grosses. Some of the reasons for the slump:

Higher ticket prices. Since going to the movie costs approximately 15 percent more today, people are thinking twice before watching a film in a theater.

Unappealing new productions. Veteran observers complain that new film products are less exciting than last year's offerings, so fewer people are making a beeline for them.

Old marketing schemes no longer work. Some years ago, even bland movies could be hyped up enough through savvy advertising and promotions to lure box-office crowds to the theaters.

These days, viewers appear to be less willing to be seduced by promotional blandishments, and rely more on word-of-mouth publicity. When their friends tell them that a movie is a dud, they choose to believe them rather than the puffed-up promotions for the production—and stay away!

More competition for viewers' attention and patronage. Before, movie producers had to contend mainly with competition from other films and television.

Formats

Today, however, many other sources of entertainment are vying for their slice of the shrinking movie pie: DVD sales and rentals, sophisticated home theaters and entertainment centers, high-definition TV formats like Blu-ray and HD-DVD, Dolby and DTS sound, videogames, TiVo, the Internet—etc.!

So, what's the solution to the huge problems that global cinema is facing? First, producers have to realize that the heretofore fairly homogenous movie market had broken up into many niche audiences, and they should therefore diversify their film products to appeal specifically to each of these markets.

The rise of less expensive digital filmmaking systems and services now makes it possible to produce a movie for much less money than it used to take, so niche marketing has become practicable.

Producers

Producers also need to remind themselves that global box-office grosses have been exceeded by DVD sales and rentals, and that international sales have similarly surged.

Thus, the very nature and profile of the film audience *and* viewing experience have been radically altered, with many more people watching films at home rather than in theaters, and global audiences now demanding more universal themes in the films they watch, rather than the limited and limiting Hollywood-based stories of old.

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Child actor delivers strong film, stage performances

By Nestor U. Torre

JULY WAS AN EXCITING, heady month for new child actor Elijah Castillo. From July 7 to 10, he played the top juvenile role of Tobey in the "Birhen ng Caysasay" musical at the CCP's Little Theater. And, from July 12 to 17, he portrayed the title role in Doy del Mundo's Cinemalaya entry, "Pepot Artista"—which ran off with the indie filmfest's best film plum!

One-two punch

We trust that this one-two punch in theater and film will prompt producers to take note of Elijah's considerable talent, and cast him in their projects. The young, gifted and disciplined performer definitely deserves all of the success that has come his way.

When we directed Elijah in "Caysasay," we were initially put off by his tendency to speak his lines in an artificial, "memorized" manner. (Most child performers in the Philippines suffer from this defect, the result of wrong coaching by their stage parents.)

CASTILLO (WITH DEL MUNDO, RIGHT). Strong yet subtle portrayal.

We worked hard to make Elijah understand that viewers wanted to see real characters, not *porma* portrayals. After a while, he began to see things our way, and first thought about and felt his lines before he spoke them. By the time "Caysasay" opened, he was fine.

Our next hurdle was Elijah's tendency to come up with a "small" performance, which came off as too weak for theater. So, we also strove to make his portrayal more energetic, vital and loud. This was easier to achieve, so during the musical's run, Elijah was praised for his intelligent and felt portrayal.

Elijah did even better in "Pepot Artista." He held the movie together with his natural and engaging characterization of a star-struck boy in the '70s, who dreamt of becoming a movie actor, but ended up getting frustrated every step of the way.

Honesty and charm

The young actor infused the role with an affecting honesty and charm that captivated viewers without his having to resort to the usual, embarrassing *porma* shticks and tricks that many local child performers employ. With the help of Doy del Mundo's sensitive direction, Elijah's Pepot emerged as a strong yet subtle portrayal that was the best juvenile performance in the entire filmfest.

If you haven't seen "Pepot Artista," you can catch it at its subsequent screenings elsewhere in the metropolis. We hear that the film was one of the most popular attractions during the festival, and its best film award can only increase its "must-see" cachet with follow-up audiences.

Best acting ensemble

MONTAGE

THE BEST ACTING ENSEMBLE currently on view in the theater is the top thespic troika of Roselyn Perez, Jenny Jamora and Jamie Wilson in the New Voice Company's staging of Bryony Lavery's award-winning play, "Frozen," at the Republic of Malate. Remaining performances are at 4 and 8 p.m. today, 8 p.m. on Sept. 16, and 4 and 8 p.m. on Sept. 17. Call 896-6695.

'A Rockin' Comedy'

Mitch Valdes' hit show, "A Rockin' Comedy," has a repeat run at the Mandarin Hotel's Captain's Bar tonight, and on Sept. 16, 17, 23 and 30. Not to be missed!

'Bayan-Bayanan'

Bienvenido Noriega's "Bayan-Bayanan" is being mounted by Tanghalang Ateneo today, and on Sept. 14-17, 21-24. Call 426-6001, local 5067. Ronan Capinding directs.

'Happy Day with Lolo and Lola'

An afternoon of exciting games, contests, raffles and entertainment numbers is in store for the whole family, particularly grandparents, as Dreamscape at Robinsons Galleria and 40K magazine present a special Grandparents' Day event, "Happy Day with Lolo and Lola," at 2 p.m. today at Dreamscape Centerstage. Call 647-9230.

VALDES. Repeat run at Mandarin's Captain's Bar.

Music for Special Children

Ryan Cayabyab, the Music Studio, embarks on a new music course for special children, beginning with classes for highly-functional autistic children. The classes help mentally and psychologically challenged children focus, relax, move to rhythm and sing to the best of their ability. Assessment of special children will be on Sept. 10 and 17. Call 844-33-30 or 843-2874.

'The School of Rock'

Catch Jack Black's Golden Globe-nominated performance in "The School of Rock," premiering on Asian television on HBO today at 9 p.m.

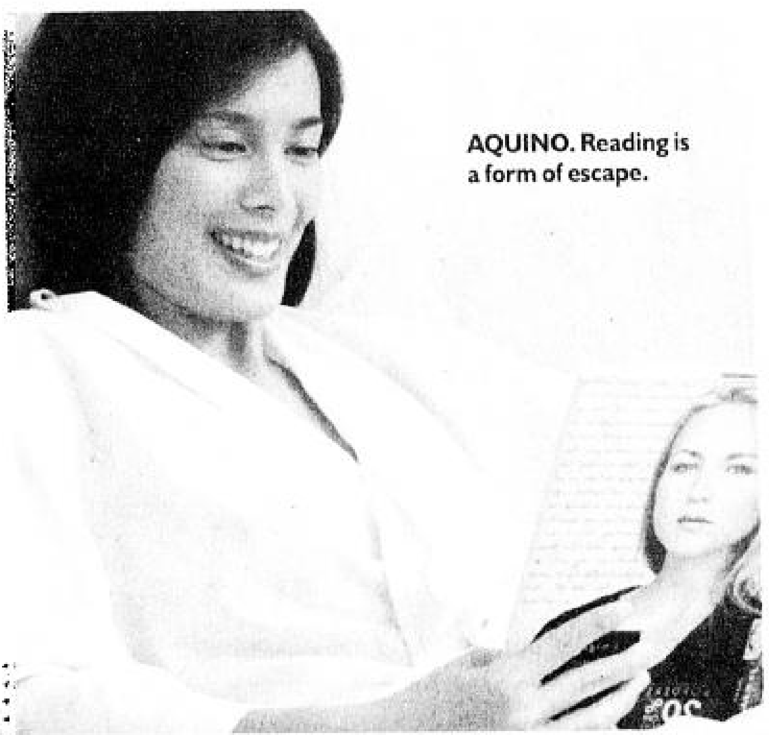
Cascades at Manila Hotel

The Cascades perform in a special dinner show at the Manila Hotel tonight. Dinner is at 7 p.m., and show time is at 8:30 p.m. Call 911-5555.

Angel and poetry

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero



AQUINO. Reading is a form of escape.

ANGEL AQUINO, 32, TV HOST of "F" on ANC every Sunday, is also a commercial model, actress and mother of two lovely girls, Iana and Thea. She loves reading to them. At home, she reads poems. Angel said: "Reading serves a different purpose for me—escape. I like poetry because, with only a few words, I get the full story."

Favorite

One of her favorite poems is by pop singer, Jewel:

"I say humanity is a boundless/ absorbing heart transcending death/ and generations and centuries,/ absorbing bullets and stitches and tear gas. Heart of humanity has not/ And will not be broken."

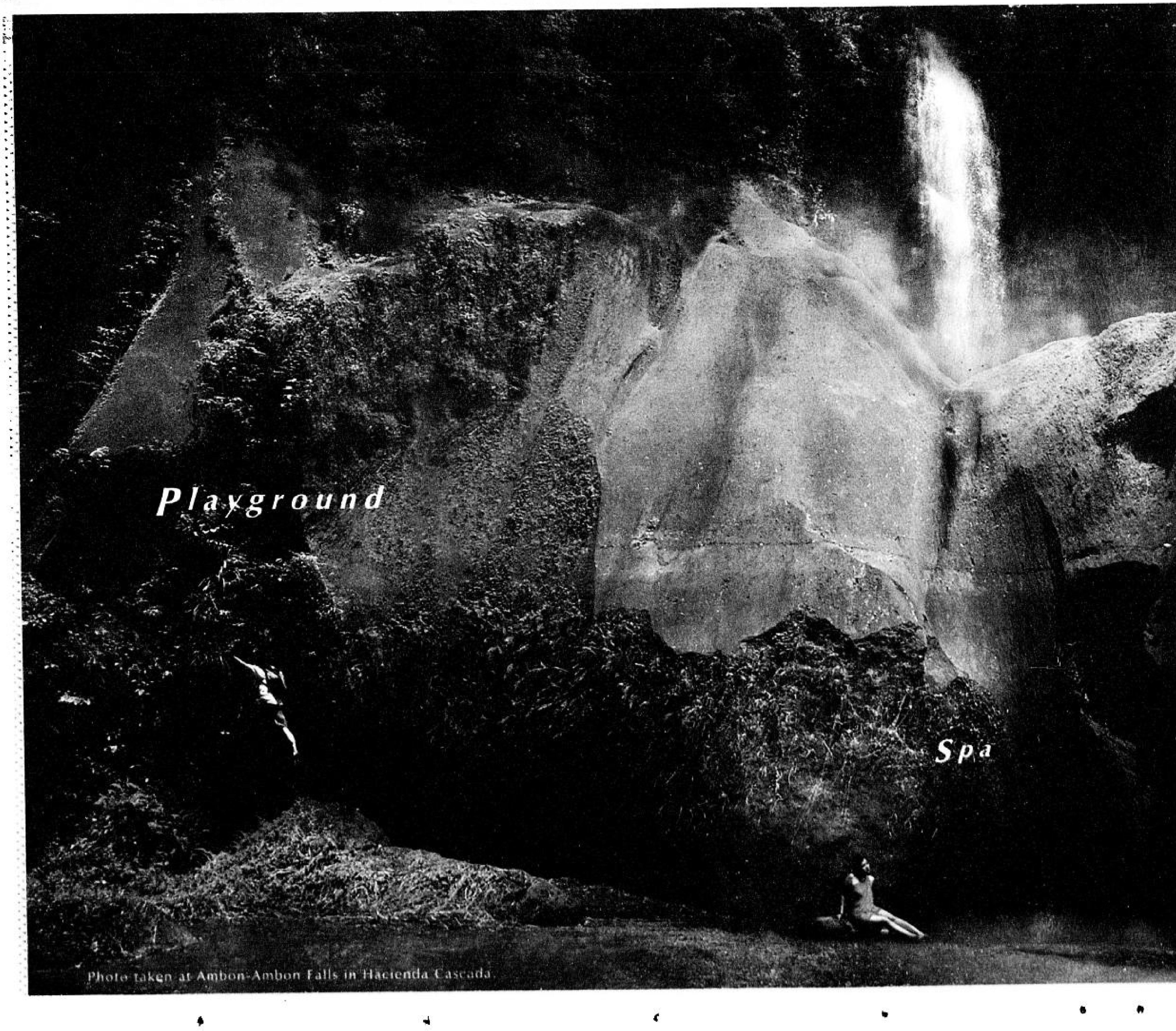
She also reads Pablo Neruda, the Spanish poet. She discovered Ramon Sunico's book of poems, "Bruise," on the shelf of an independent filmmaker in Isabela, Cagayan. But, she found Sunico's works sad and touching. "I identified with Sunico's subject of poverty, because I experienced it myself," Angel explained.

Angel, the eldest of five children, was born in Barobo, Surigao del Sur. Her mother, a former Miss MSU, met her father while they were students at the Mindanao State University (MSU). She was only five months old when the family moved to Marikina. Then, she studied at UP Baguio and completed a degree in journalism.

Angel recently wrapped up shooting on her latest film, "Nasaan na si Francis?," for Unitel.

'Flair for Reading'

Mandy Navasero's "Flair for Reading" exhibit is scheduled from Nov. 17 to Dec. 8 at the LRI Business Plaza's second anniversary celebration of "A Flair to Remember Part II." Included in the photo exhibit on celebrities who read are former President Fidel V. Ramos, Gina Lopez, Dr. Rebecca B. Singson, Dr. Minguita Padilla-Lopez, sculptor Gabby Barredo, Atty. Katrina Legarda and Dulce Gozon.



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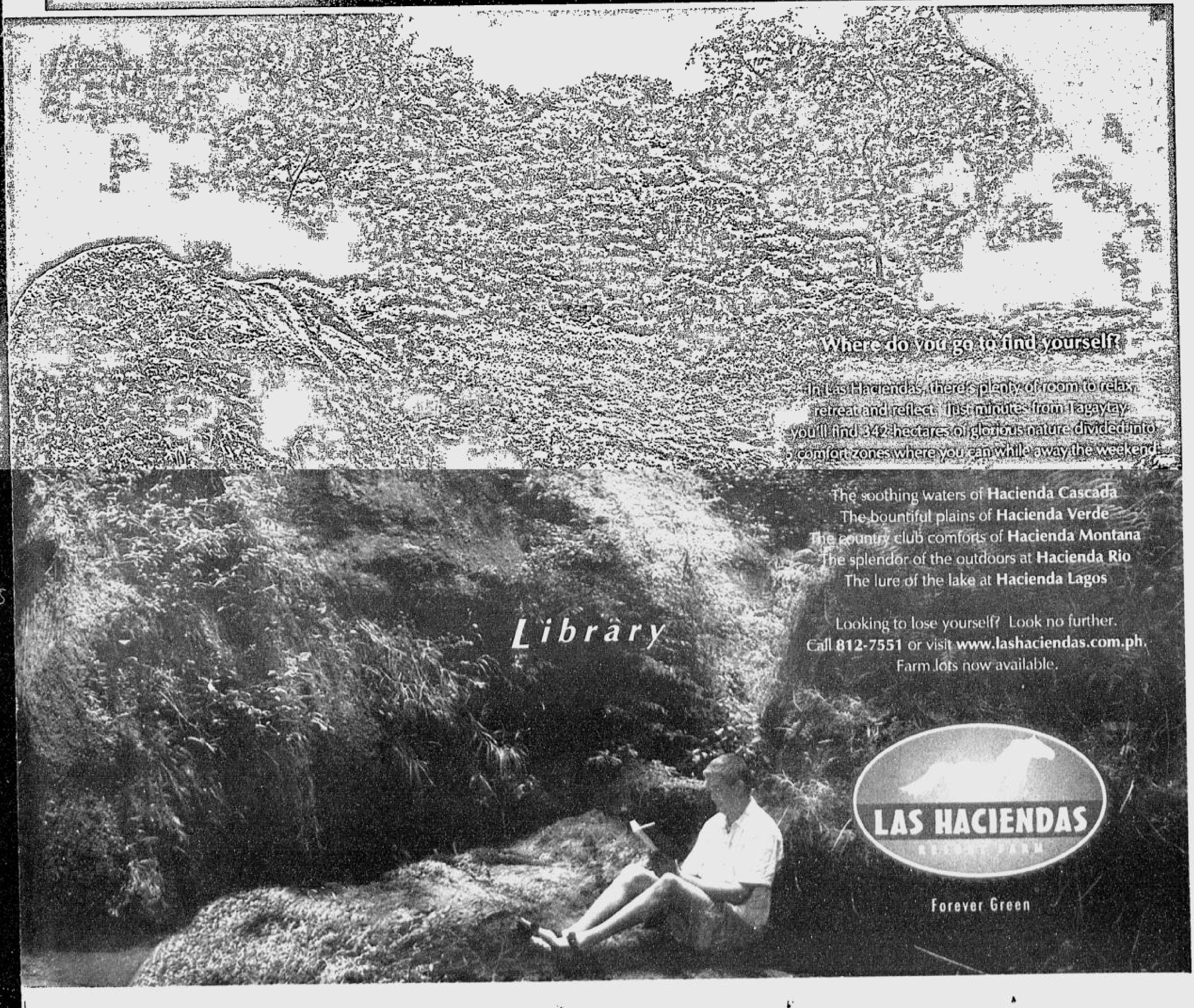

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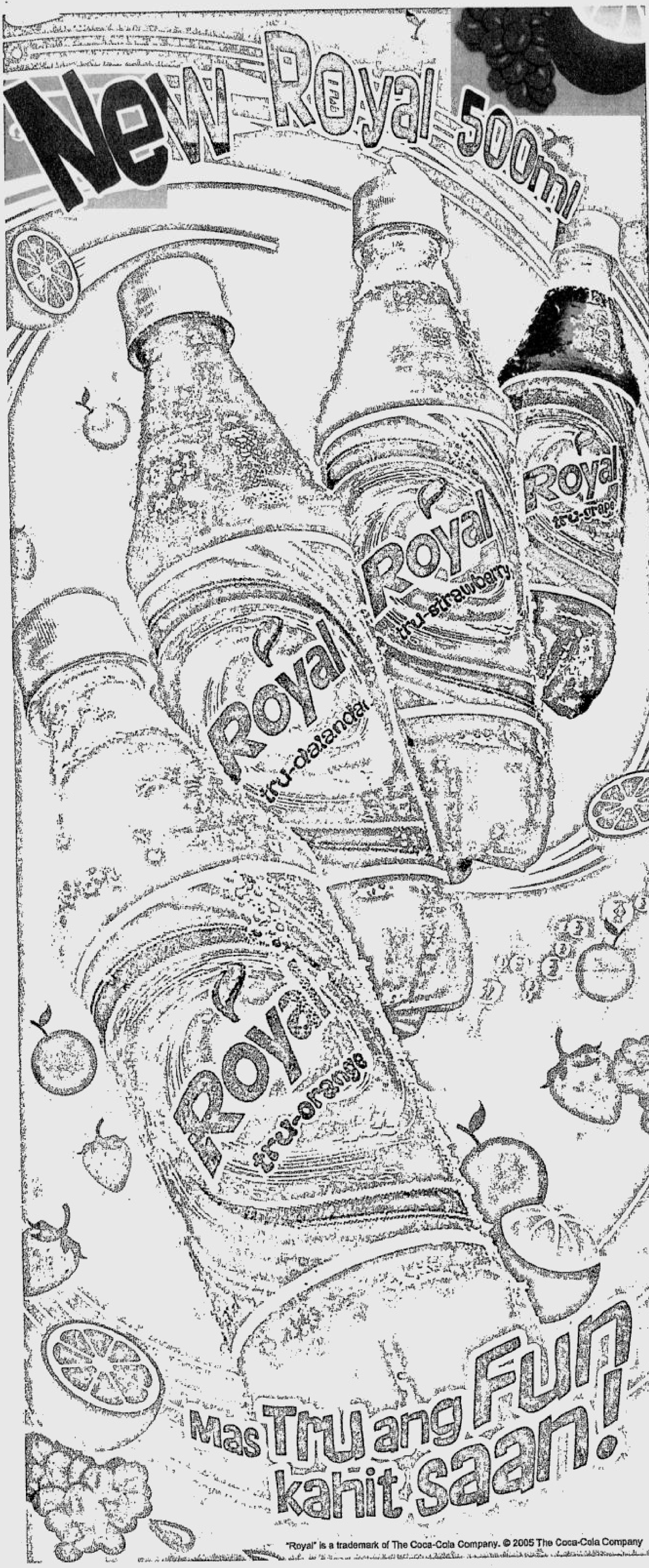

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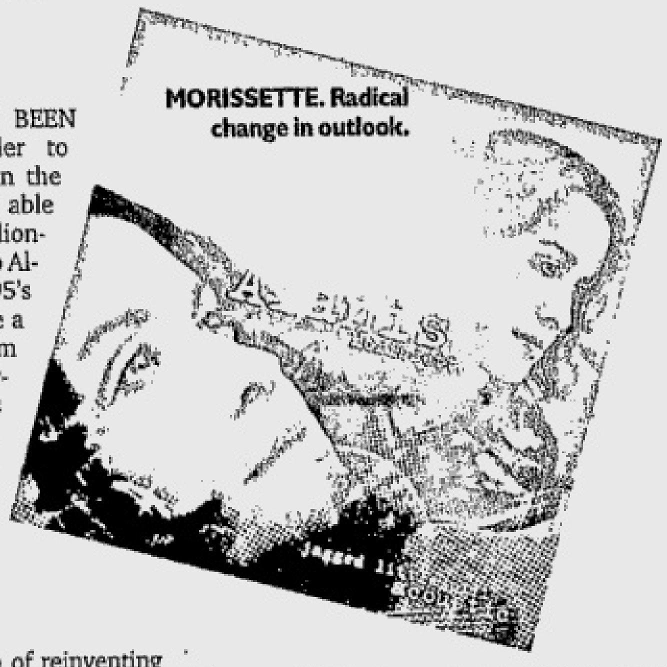
Acoustic version of 'Jagged Little Pill' highlights its faults

By Noelani Torre



MORISSETTE. Radical change in outlook.

ALANIS MORISSETTE HAS BEEN finding it increasingly harder to please both fans and critics in the past 10 years. She hasn't been able to top the 16-platinum, 30-million-copies-sold, Billboard's Top Pop Album of the '90s success of 1995's "Jagged Little Pill," and despite a radical change in outlook—from rant and rave to forgive and forget—her subsequent efforts have never escaped its shadow. Let's just say that "Thank you, India" didn't quite resonate with listeners as well as "Would she go down on you in a theater?" did.

Persona

Now, after a decade's worth of reinventing herself away from her "JLP" persona, Ms Morissette has decided to make an about-face—say hello to 2005's "Jagged Little Pill Acoustic."

An unplugged recording of the entire album, it's supposed to commemorate "JLP's" 10-year anniversary. Instead of honoring the memory of that imperfect but significant album, however, this acoustic version only manages to obscure its original vision and highlight its faults.

"JLP's" drums and guitars may have been more corporate than original, but they were loud, driving, and conveyed the rage embedded in most of the album's songs. "Jagged Little Pill Acoustic" has been stripped of their booming force, and many of its songs suffer.

The vitriolic "You Oughta Know," for example, still has the same accusatory lyrics, but the fury that originally fueled it is no longer there. And the cautious optimism of the originally youthful "Hand In My Pocket" sounds stilted in this new slowed-down and middle-aged rendition.

This stripping down has also resulted in a stronger focus on the songs and their content. This is the object of most acoustic recordings, but in this case, it's not the inherent beauty of the material that is revealed, but its flaws. We are reminded of the fact that Alanis' convoluted therapy-speak can be vastly irritating as well as laughable, like this line from "Not The Doctor"—"I don't want to be the sweeper of the eggshells that you walk upon." Right.

Unscathed

The few songs that get off relatively unscathed are the ones that were already practically acoustic, like "Mary Jane" and "Perfect." "Ironic" doesn't fare too badly either—in fact, this new version reminds us that it has an appealing melody despite the un-ironic lyrics.

All in all, this is a much quieter album. Though this reflects a more positive change in Alanis' own make-up, it does not do justice to her old material and her younger, angrier self.

Sure, she whined a lot back then, and no doubt she sounds much saner now, but "Jagged Little Pill" was a hit because she whined and sounded just a little bit mad. You just couldn't dismiss her honest rage and despair.

Now, with all the edge and jaggedness smoothed out, the album that nobody could ignore becomes the album that everybody's wishing they could.

From stage to screen

By Nestor U. Torre

OF LATE, WE'VE BEEN READING A NUMber of articles celebrating the "graduation" of some theater talents to the big screen, many of them by way of the digital features that have become quite the rage these days.

Truth to tell, however, the link between the stage and the silver screen has been evident on the local scene for a long time now—in fact, from the very early days of Philippine cinema.

When movies started to be filmed here, many of the writers, directors and actors who worked in them came from the *sarswela* stage.

Convoluted plots

That's why the movies they made retained the conventions of Philippine theater at the time—they were long, featured convoluted plots and a mishmash of elements, over-obvious performances, and a predominantly stylized manner of staging.

In the 1950s, directors Lamberto Avellana and Gerry de Leon also came from the *sarswela* or English-language stage, and so did respected actors like Vic Silayan, Tita Muñoz and Vic Diaz.

Silver screen

In the '70s, leading theater lights like Laurice Guillen and Tommy Abuel crossed over to the silver screen, and came up with exceptional performances that are celebrated to this day.

Only later did the process get reversed, as directors like Lino Brocka used film stars to make their stage productions more popular with and accessible to the general public. Brocka cast Rita Gomez and Lolita Rodriguez in "Larawan," and Hilda Koronel in "Pusa sa Yerong Bubong." Some St. Paul's College musicals starred Robert Arevalo and other film luminaries.

Colleagues

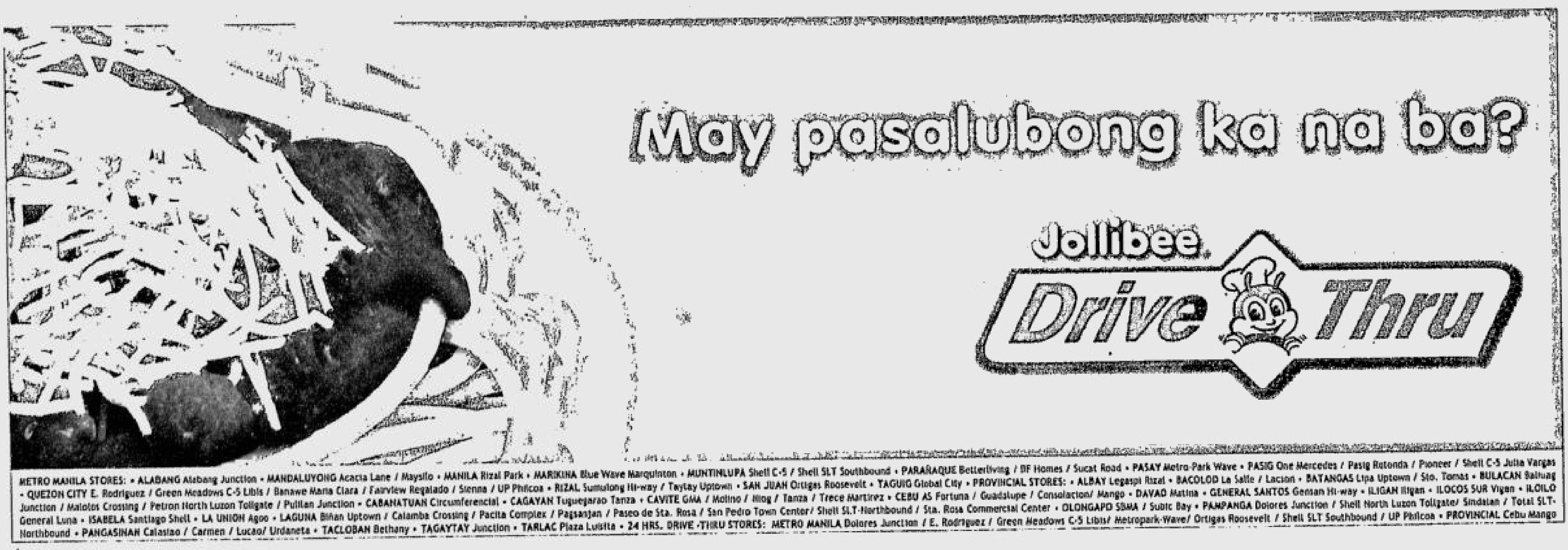
Conversely, Brocka used many of his theater colleagues in his movies. "Tinimbang Ka Ngunit Kulang" and "Santiago" were cast predominantly with stage actors. Later, Ishmael Bernal followed suit with "Himala," Peque Gallaga with "Oro, Plata, Mata," and Behn Cervantes with "Sakada."

Of the many stage talents who have acted in films, who have been the most successful? Well, the late comic Rene Requiestas became very popular, indeed, and so has Cesar Montano. Laurice Guillen became an award-winning director and now heads the Film Development Council of the Philippines.

Vaudeville

Leo Martinez starred in a number of film comedies. Come to think of it, even king comic Dolphy came from the vaudeville stage, where he started as a hoofer before he reinvented himself as Golay, the "Chinese" comedian.

Will any of the new crop of stage thespians turned movie actors match their success? Only when their digital starrers make it big on mainstream movie screens. Given the paucity of digital moviehouses to date, however, that'll take some doing.



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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2005 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
B1

BUSINESS

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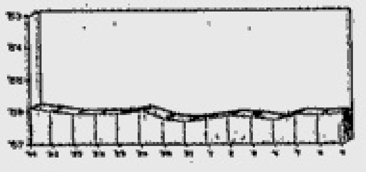


PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 56.060 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 09, 2005

¥ 110.50 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 09, 2005

$3.46B IN JULY

Exports jump 11.4%

Electronics post major rebound

By Michelle V. Remo

MERCHANDISE EXPORTS GREW SHARPLY IN JULY AS THE electronics industry bounced back from weak earnings in the previous months following a declining global demand.

Citing preliminary data, the National Statistics Office yesterday reported that exports expanded by 11.4 percent to $3.46 billion in July from a year ago. In June, the year-on-year growth stood at only 1.2 percent.

Exports of electronics, the country's major export earner, jumped by 14.4 percent, reversing the 4.6-percent decline recorded in June. Export earnings by the electronics sector in July amounted to $2.29 billion, accounting for 66.2 percent of the total export revenues during the month.

"July was an extraordinary month. The export performance in July might have been a spike caused by the temporary buildup in inventory by firms in preparation for the Christmas season," said Jonathan Ravelas, market strategist from Banco de Oro.

While the 11.4-percent expansion in July was higher than the government's target of only 8 percent, Ravelas said it was unlikely that the export sector could sustain double-digit growths in the remaining months of the year.

Economists said the continuing rise in oil prices could reduce household and corporate spending for other goods, thus affecting exports. Ravelas said Dubai crude, which was already at $47.57 a barrel as of yesterday, could average at $50 this year.

"In an environment of rising oil prices, consumers tend to postpone the purchase of items considered luxurious or not necessity," he said. Ravelas added that with the oil price crisis, the country's exports could post a growth of between 5 and 8 percent.

Following electronics as the country's top export earner for July was apparel and clothing accessories, which generated $229.42 million during the month, or 7.8 percent higher than the $212.9 million recorded a year ago.

Ignition wiring set and other wiring sets used in vehicles, aircraft and ships, ranked third with sales amounting to $66.66 million, or 2.7 percent more than previous year's the $64.91 million.

Other products manufactured from materials imported on consignment basis ranked fourth with total revenue of $48.72 million, 39.4 percent higher than the $34.94 million during the same period in 2004.

Rounding up the top export earners were: coconut oil, $47.27 million; petroleum products, $44.34 million; woodcrafts and furniture, $36.54 million; metal components, $32.08 million; bananas, $27.6 million; and cathodes and sections of cathodes of refined copper, $25.21 million.

The NSO said Japan accounted for the biggest share or 17.3 percent of Philippine exports for July at $598.06 million, slightly

TITLE/ B2

Importers start hedging vs foreign exchange risks

By Daxim L. Lucas

MORE AND MORE OIL FIRMS, BANKS AND large importers are locking in their future dollar requirements way ahead of time, indicating a declining level of confidence in the strength of the peso.

According to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), corporate dollar users have bought $606.75 million worth of so-called non-deliverable forward (NDF) contracts in July.

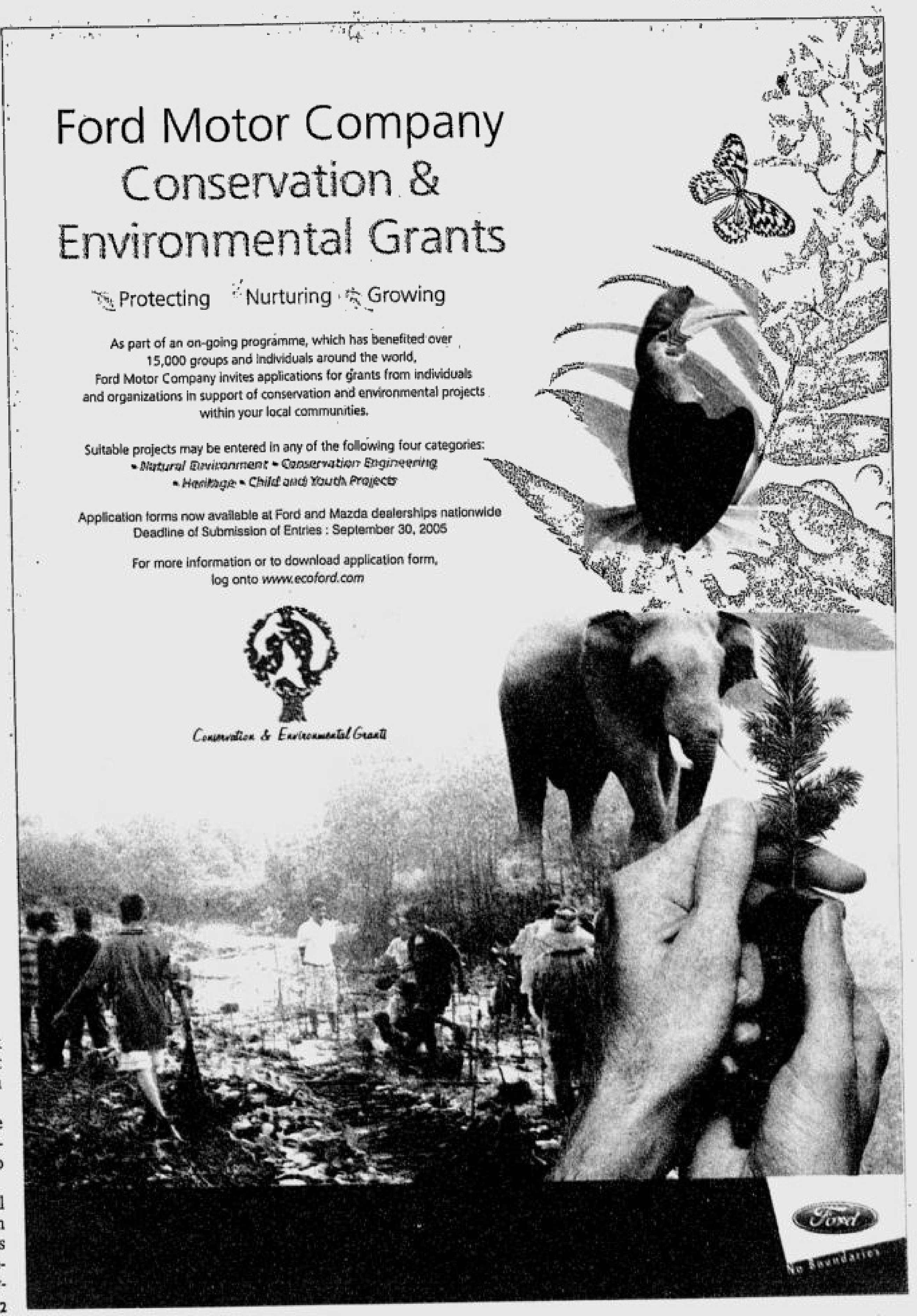
This was 146 percent higher than the $246.5 million worth of NDFs bought by corporate users in the same period last year, and 67 percent more than the $362.5 million reported in the previous month.

Central bank officials blamed the weak confidence in the local currency on President Arroyo's troubles that began building up in June and erupted in July.

"The peso might weaken so companies are looking for protection during this political crisis," BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said in an interview.

NDFs are instruments offered by the central bank under its currency risk protection program that allows large dollar users like oil companies to hedge their future dollar requirements at pre-agreed rates. The BSP compensates the buy-

IMPORTERS/ B2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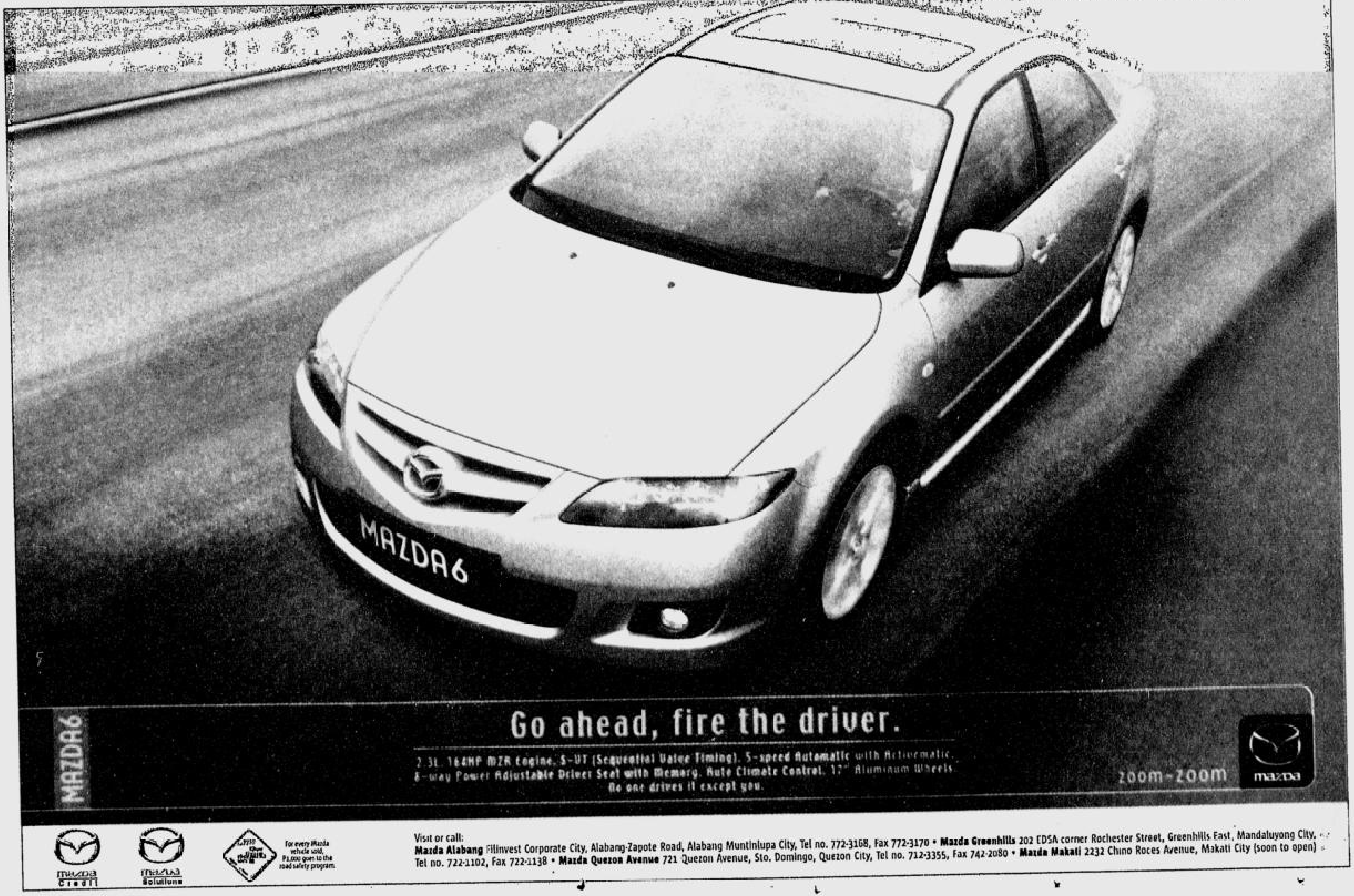

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Colayco firm backs out of ATR deal

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

ATR KIM ENG CAPITAL PARTNERS now appears to be fighting a war on two fronts.

Since 1999, ATR Kim Eng has been locked in a legal tussle with the LBC Group of businessman Carlos Araneta.

Yesterday, Asian Meridian Management Corp. (AMMC) of Francisco Colayco confirmed it was backing out of its 2002 loan and pledge agreement with ATR Kim Eng.

Colayco yesterday told the INQUIRER that, as early as May, AMMC wrote a letter to ATR Kim Eng that it was unilaterally withdrawing from its loan and pledge agreement with ATR.

According to the agreement signed in 2002, Colayco's firm would acquire 50 percent of Professional Mutual Holdings Inc. (PMHI), a holding company that is also owned by courier and financial services group LBC.

PMHI, in turn, holds 86 percent of pre-need firm TPG.

AMMC also told ATR that it would hold the disputed shares "in trust on behalf" of ATR until it finds a buyer for these shares.

But ATR Kim Eng Capital Partners, in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, said its sale of 50 percent to Colayco's AMMC was a "bona fide" transaction.

ATR Kim Eng said it signed a deed of absolute sale with AMMC in November 2002. Since then, it said, ATR has ceased to be a shareholder of TPG.

In its reply to AMMC last May, ATR said that the transfer of 375,000 shares in PMHI to AMMC was "absolute and irrevocable."

"Clearly, we never intended that the sale of the subject shares be conditioned on AMMC finding a buyer for it," ATR said in its letter to Colayco.

It also added that Colayco's firm has outstanding obligations to ATR worth roughly P237 million, which was used to fund the purchase of shares in PMHI.

"AMMC has no legal right or basis to unilaterally withdraw from its obligations," ATR Kim Eng said. "Moreover, it may not unilaterally declare that these contracts are totally extinguished simply because it is no longer possible for it to perform its obligations. AMMC's failure to perform its obligations under the loan agreements would constitute a default under the loan agreement."

ATR Kim Eng and LBC have been waging a legal battle since Araneta sought to annul a 1999 joint venture agreement with the ATR group.

To tell the tooth

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

JUST IN CASE YOU THOUGHT that this country is losing its regional edge in the field of medicine, let me remind you that gigantic new modern hospitals, costing billions upon billions of pesos, are going up in Metro Manila.

The construction boom in hospitals here the size of the entire original island of Singapore, nevertheless, does not mean that our country is awfully sick.

Sure, we have yet to prove that foreign media were wrong when, during the economic boom in the region several years ago, they unanimously voted our country as the "sick man of Asia."

But you can bet your wife's inheritance that this country is as healthy as any in the region that can boast of national debts of more than P1 trillion.

In fact, our country is healthy enough for us to continue shooting ourselves on the foot. For this we must congratulate our politicians. Without them, we cannot expect the same attention from international media that we are getting today.

* * *

ANYWAY, what those spic and span brand new hospitals only prove is, in this country of more than 80 million people, health care is big business.

Look, if only 10 percent of those more than 80 million people can afford to be sick, needing to be hospitalized at least once a year, for instance, we have some eight million potential clients already for luxury hospital suites, which are so big, they come with separate helicopter pads.

The biggest irony in the hospital business is, of course, to make money or at least to break even, hospitals must hope that enough people who have money would get sick.

That's why here, in this country of big new modern hospitals, the poor cannot afford to get sick. The poor are not the clientele of most of the best hospitals.

Anyway, I am only trying to point out that, whether the bishops who refuse to get cash donations from Pagcor like it or not, health care is still a business. And health care is the main preoccupation of many charitable institutions from here to Dagupan.

For your information, boss, health care usually involves costs—such as salaries of employees, interest expense, cost of equipment, and huge uncollected billings of hospitals.

In short, health care still involves money. Big money! In the health care business, therefore, money does not only talk, it also pays for a lot of things.

* * *

TO me, the well-publicized financial problem of one of the country's premier hospitals, the Makati Medical Center, proves once again that charity work entails costs.

Look, even those Gloriaetta "health cards," which some people say were nothing but election gimmickry, cost a lot of money, even minus the graft and corruption in this cute administration's delivery of health care to the impoverished public.

If even Makati Med, which was THE hospital of my generation, got into financial trouble, I can only imagine the problems besetting other hospitals all over the country.

From what I gathered, one big factor behind Makati Med's financial troubles, in the first place, is its huge uncollected hospital billings, amounting to hundreds of millions of pesos.

A big part of those was incurred in the emergency department. It has been the policy of Makati Med, under its longtime medical director Dr. Raul Fores, to never refuse emergency cases, even before the law required such a practice on all hospitals.

Over the years, Makati Med built a reputation as having the best emergency department in the entire country. It became so good in emergency cases, many accident and trauma victims wanted to be brought to Makati Med, even if the accident happened in another universe or even somewhere farther.

Makati Med's strength in the field of medicine, in other words, became its weakness in the hospital business. You still need money to run an emergency room.

* * *

RECENTLY, in case some bishops who are particular about the source of donations did not hear the story, one group of ex-seminarians had a wonderful experience at the Makati Med's emergency department.

It seems that one very sick ex-seminarian, which did not have the money for even just the fare to go to the hospital, much less the means to undergo treatment, was brought to the Makati Med emergency department.

As a rule, when you bring somebody to any private hospital emergency room, you have to put up a deposit, usually amounting to thousands of pesos.

In this obvious charity case, no questions asked, the staff of the Makati Med emergency department gave the ex-seminarian all the attention that is normally accorded to paying patients in other hospitals.

And the ex-seminarian did not even have one of those Gloriaetta "health cards."

* * *

I JUST found out that there is a specialized field called emergency medicine, and the leader in it, of course, is the Makati Med emergency department.

As a matter of fact, doctors in the field have an organization called PCEMAC, or the Philippine College of Emergency Medicine and Acute Care. They are holding a symposium on Sept. 29. (Call 8159911 local 10 or email emergency@makatimed.net.ph.)

A perusal of the symposium program immediately tells you that this is a group of people after Breaktime's heart. One topic on oral and dental emergencies is entitled "To tell the tooth." I like PCEMAC already.

Importers start hedging vs foreign exchange risks

From page B1

er—in peso equivalent—should the local currency weaken against the dollar during the life of the contract, reducing the need for these firms to hoard dollars.

BSP documents showed that no NDF contracts were bought in January and March 2005, followed by a gradual buildup during the summer coinciding with the Arroyo administration's political crisis.

Guinigundo said that the amount of dollar-hedging instruments bought by companies reflected their judgment on the direction of the peso which, in this case, is bearish.

"People want insurance against possible adjustments of the foreign exchange [rate] in the future," he said.

The central bank deputy chief said most of the NDFs bought were 180-day contracts, reflecting the companies' belief that the peso would weaken significantly during this period.

So far, companies have been justified in buying these hedging tools as the peso has hit its lowest level of 56.261 to a dollar last Sept. 1 from its strongest level this year of 53.912 recorded last March 18.

Guinigundo said, however, that the buildup in NDF contracts was part of a normal cycle, especially during times of uncertainty. He said that demand for the central bank's dollar hedging facility topped $700 million at one point during the previous episodes of political upheaval.

Exports jump 11.4%

From page B1

higher than the previous year's $595.29 million.

The United States followed with a 16.8 percent share or $581.15 million. However, this was a decline of 23.1 percent from $755.7 million in July last year.

China emerged as the third biggest market for Philippine exports, accounting for $567.63 million or 16.4 percent of the total. The amount of exports to China in July was 200.5 percent more than last year's $188.91 million.

Other top export destinations for Philippine products were the Netherlands, $294.06; Hong Kong, $263.95 million; Malaysia, $213.59 million; Singapore, $201.33 million; Taiwan, $132.39 million; Korea, $105.77 million, and Thailand, $90.28 million.

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Shares down 1.21% on political worries

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 1.21 percent lower yesterday as investors chose for safety ahead of the weekend in the face of continued political uncertainty and after a weak Wall Street performance coupled with a fresh rise in oil prices, dealers said.

They said that with the prospect of more street protests against President Macapagal-Arroyo after her allies in Congress quashed an impeachment bid against her, investors were inclined to caution.

The composite index fell 23.07 points to 1,882.77 after trading between 1,882.60 and 1,910.80. Turnover was 959 million shares worth P710.5 million.

The broader all-shares index retreated 11.70 points to 1,152.24.

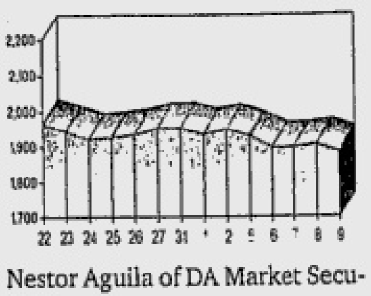
Losers outnumbered risers 61 to 22, with 44 stocks unchanged.

The peso was at 56.11 to the dollar at the close.

"Anemic. That is the best way to describe the market. There's not been much money going around," said Lawrence de Leon of Accord Capital Equities.

Opposition groups have been calling for increased street protests against Ms Arroyo following the defeat of impeachment complaints in Congress.

High oil prices may also push down the market further, said Nestor Aguila of DA Market Securities.



"The Asian Development Bank's lower (gross domestic product) forecast for the Philippines does not give room for any excitement in the market for now," Aguila said.

On Thursday, the ADB lowered its 2005 GDP growth forecast for the country to 4.7 percent from 5 percent, citing sluggish exports, lower farm output and weak investments.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. led the downturn, falling P10 to P1,575.

Second top-traded Ayala Land fell 10 centavos to P7.40 while parent Ayala Corp. retreated P7.50 to P282.50.

SM Prime Holdings was down 10 centavos at P6.90 while parent SM Investments gave up P3 at P203.

San Miguel "B" shares were unchanged at P92.50 while San Miguel "A," exclusively for Filipino investors, ended 50 centavos lower at P65. *AFP*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 9, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4	4	4	4	9,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	30.5	30.5	30	30	89,600
Bank of the Phil. Islands	52	52	50.5	50.5	725,900
China Banking Corp.	830	830	830	830	100
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	1,500
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	350,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	49.5	49.5	48.5	48.5	181,100
International Exch. Bank	18.5	18.75	18.5	18.75	111,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27.5	28	26.5	26.5	339,300
Philippine National Bank	36	36	35.5	35.5	7,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14.75	15	14.75	14.75	89,000
Security Bank Corp.	29.5	30	29.5	30	35,400
Union Bank of the Phil.	29.5	29.5	29.5	29.5	1,100
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Filipino Fund Inc.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	1,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	255	255	255	255	10
Manulife Financial Corp.	2840	2840	2840	2840	80
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	50,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2070	2070	2070	2070	440
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.98	0.99	0.96	0.98	2,110,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	730	735	725	725	21,960
Ipeople Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	57,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.055	0.055	0.0525	0.0525	5,100,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.85	2.85	1,240,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1570	1580	1560	1575	140,210
Ivantage Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.57	0.57	750,000
Philweb Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.015	0.016	153,800,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	14	14	14	14	23,200
Manila Electric Co. B	22	22.25	21.25	21.5	1,500,600
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.2	6.2	5.9	6	4,437,000
Petron Corp.	3.15	3.2	3.1	3.1	1,024,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.24	1.24	1.2	1.2	500,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.68	1.68	1.68	1.68	2,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	8.1	8.4	8.1	8.3	2,270,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	130,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.56	0.56	0.54	0.54	650,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	126,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	10,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	180,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.45	13,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	31	31	31	31	75,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	35	35	34.5	34.5	271,500
RFM Corp.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	250,000
San Miguel Corp. A	65	65.5	65	65	40,300
San Miguel Corp. B	92.5	92.5	92.5	92.5	229,000
Universal Robina Corp.	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	2,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	680,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	13,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.008	0.009	0.008	0.009	5,000,000
Ayala Corp.	290	290	282.5	282.5	57,350
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5	5	4.95	4.95	1,141,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.026	0.026	0.025	0.025	18,600,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2	2.02	2	2.02	1,203,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	77,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.77	0.77	0.73	0.73	940,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.8	9.8	9.7	9.7	6,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.125	0.125	400,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.04	1.04	1	1	21,096,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.23	0.23	710,000
CADP Group Corp.	1	1.04	1	1.04	60,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.195	0.195	490,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	100,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.05	3.05	3	3	1,969,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.1	1.1	170,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.4	5.4	1,236,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	40.5	40.5	39	39.5	801,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	50,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.82	1.82	1.82	1.82	170,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.32	1.32	1.3	1.3	4,949,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.32	10,490,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	90,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.04	1.06	1.04	1.06	12,000
SM Investments Corp.	206	206	202	203	75,990
South China Resources Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	100,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4.3	4.3	4.15	4.15	55,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	700,000
Vivant Corp.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	10,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	40,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.93	0.93	0.92	0.92	2,450,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.54	1.56	3,391,000
Manila Jockey Club	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	50,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	620,000
Philippine Racing Club	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	119,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	13.25	13.25	13	13	952,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series K	11	11	10	10	1,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	11	11	11	11	500
PLDT (10% Pref.) SerieS U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10.5	10	10.5	1,900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	11	11	10.25	10.25	1,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series AA	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	7.8	8	7.8	8	39,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.6	7.6	7.4	7.4	7,217,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	410,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.22	0.22	2,260,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.24	0.24	1,600,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.34	1,240,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.36	1.36	1.28	1.28	2,659,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.215	0.215	0.205	0.21	370,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	2,500,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	4.25	4.3	4.25	4.3	28,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	40,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.9	7	6.8	6.9	6,719,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	1.08	1.08	1	1.06	1,014,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	1.1	1.1	1	1.08	879,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	65,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6.5	6.6	6.3	6.3	460,000
Benguet Corp. A	8	8	8	8	11,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.8	1.84	1.8	1.82	19,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.34	0.34	0.32	0.32	4,660,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.35	7,640,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	165,400,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.025	0.025	0.024	0.024	99,100,000
Omico Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	51,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.85	0.85	0.81	0.84	2,240,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.04	1.06	1	1	1,974,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	29.5	29.5	28.5	29	372,200
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.32	410,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	1,400,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	85,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.009	0.009	0.0085	0.0085	93,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.44	0.47	0.43	0.43	3,220,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.47	0.49	0.45	0.45	2,230,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.8	115,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	1,590,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.43	0.43	0.41	0.41	580,000

DISCLOSURES

FIL-ESTATE CORP. WILL HOLD ITS ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING on Oct. 24, 8:30 a.m. at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City. Stockholders of record as of Sept. 23 are entitled to notice and vote at the meeting.

* * *

FIRST Abacus Financial Holdings Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Sept. 29, 8 a.m. at the Discovery Suites, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Stockholders of record as of Aug. 30 are entitled to notice and vote at the meeting.

* * *

IPEOPLE Inc. disclosed that the board approved the declaration of a P0.08 per share or 8 percent cash dividend with a total amount of P59,914,700.96 from the company's unrestricted retained earnings in 2004 to the stockholders of Ipeople Inc. Record date is Sept. 28, and payment date is on Oct. 24.

* * *

LODESTAR Investment Holdings Corp. disclosed the deferment of the holding of the delinquency sale of the shares of stock of the company to Sept. 19, 2:30 p.m. at Abacus Capital and Investment Corp., PSE Center, Pasig City.

Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

CURRENCIES

September 9, 2005

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.806712	1.000000	56.0770
Japan	Yen	0.007302	0.009051	0.5076
United Kingdom	Pound	1.480800	1.835600	102.9349
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.103879	0.128768	7.2209
Switzerland	Franc	0.648222	0.803536	45.0599
Canada	Dollar	0.683017	0.846668	47.4786
Singapore	Dollar	0.481188	0.596481	33.4489
Australia	Dollar	0.622126	0.771188	43.2459
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.139933	2.652661	148.7533
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.215106	0.266645	14.9527
Brunei	Dollar	0.479757	0.594707	33.3494
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000078	0.000097	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.019695	0.024414	1.3691
UAE	Dirham	0.219651	0.272279	15.2686
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.239600	69.5130
Argentina	Peso	0.277937	0.344531	19.3203
Brazil	Real	0.348246	0.431686	24.2077
Denmark	Kroner	0.134155	0.166298	9.3255
India	Rupee	0.018456	0.022878	1.2829
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.214038	0.265322	14.8785
Mexico	New Peso	0.075218	0.093240	5.2286
New Zealand	Dollar	0.568748	0.705020	39.5354
South Africa	Rand	0.127620	0.158198	8.8713
Korea	Won	0.000786	0.000974	0.0546
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024688	0.030578	1.7147

Amnesty to be granted to ecozone firms

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE said the government would collect back taxes from firms in economic zones outside Subic, but would grant some form of tax amnesty to reduce their liabilities.

Finance Undersecretary Emmanuel Bonoan said the compromise was proposed by Sen. Richard Gordon during a Senate hearing on fiscal incentives last Wednesday, and the DOF was agreeable to the suggestion.

Bonoan said that under the plan, the 5-percent gross income tax paid by the locators in the past years would be deducted from the regular taxes they should have remitted to the government. Amnesty would be applied on the resulting amount.

With the plan, the DOF hopes to end the dilemma regarding the tax treatment of economic zone locators. Some of the affected companies have warned of possible mass layoffs should they be made to pay back taxes, as they were made to believe they were entitled to fiscal incentives.

The dilemma stemmed from a recent Supreme Court ruling saying that locators in economic zones, except those in Subic, are not entitled fiscal incentives.

The high court clarified that Republic Act No. 9227, which grants tax and duty perks to locators, only covers those at the Subic Bay Freeport Zone. The law states that locators in Subic should pay only a 5-percent tax on their gross income.

The court ruling means that firms in the economic zones in Clark Field in Pampanga, Camp John Hay in Baguio, Poro Point in La Union, etc. should pay the regular 32-percent corporate income tax and other taxes. *Michelle V. Remo*

Jan-Aug vehicle sales jump 12%

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE STEADY SUPPLY OF NEW VEHICLE models continue to drive up local sales as assemblers reported a growth rate of 11.6 percent in the first eight months.

Members of the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines (Campi) and the Truck Manufacturers Association yesterday said they sold a total of 63,699 units from January to August compared to 42,032 units sold in the same period in 2004.

Campi and TMA said that as of end-August, sales have reached 67 percent of the target of 95,000 units in 2005.

The groups said they expected turnover to grow further in the coming months, especially since September is historically a high-sales month.

Also, Campi and TMA said passenger car sales went up by 11.7 percent in the first eight months to 23,718 units from 21,234 units in the same period last year.

January to August sales of commercial vehicles—Asian utility vehicles, light commercial vehicles, light trucks, and trucks and buses—grew by an average of 11.5 percent to 39,981 units from 35,859 units.

All four sub-categories showed positive growth: AUV sales went up by 22 percent to 18,017 units; LCV sales by 4 percent to 20,524 units; light trucks by 4 percent to 1,051 units; and trucks and buses by 26 percent to 389 units.

Toyota Motors Philippines Corp. kept the largest portion of the overall market, with a 36-percent share.

TMPC sold 22,949 units in the first eight months or 15.4 percent higher than the 19,883 units it sold in the same period last year.

Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. ranked second with 14.2 percent of the market. MMPC sold 9,044 vehicles, which was 11.4 percent higher than the previous level of 8,116 units.

Isuzu Philippines Corp. ranked third with a 10.2-percent share of the market. Isuzu sales reached 6,469 units, which was 5.5 percent lower than the 6,131 units it sold in the same period last year.

Further, the report showed that Ford Motor Co. Philippines Inc.—the country's only exporter of completely built vehicles—shipped out 5,426 units in the first eight months, up 19.7 percent from 4,533 in the same period last year.

Ford to recall 6,000 SUVs, pickup trucks

FORD MOTOR CO. PHILIPPINES YESTERDAY said owners of Ford F-150 and Ford Expedition units made between 1994 and 2000 should have their vehicles checked.

The announcement came after Ford's parent company based in the United States declared a worldwide recall of vehicles.

"To ensure the safety of Ford customers, the company is voluntarily issuing a field service action to correct a systems interaction with the vehicle's speed control deactivation switch," Ford officials said in a statement.

The recall affects around 6,000 units of the 1994-2002 Ford F-150 and Ford Expedition in the Philippines.

"Owners of affected vehicles would be immediately notified in writing to advise them to bring in their vehicles to a Ford dealership," the company said.

On Thursday, Detroit-based Ford Motor Co. announced the recall of 3.8 million pickups and sports utility vehicles in the US due to risks of engine fires.

Also last Thursday, Toyota Motor Corp. announced a recall for 978,000 units of 1989-1996 models of pickup trucks and sport utility vehicles sold in the US for faulty steering mechanism.

The INQUIRER tried to reach officials of Toyota Motor but they could not be reached at press time. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

DOF turns down bid to waive penalties for overdue taxes

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE HAS turned down a proposal to waive the penalties on individuals or entities that have failed to pay their estate tax liabilities on time.

The DOF said it was not advisable to implement some form of amnesty on estate tax payments, considering that the last one was concluded only in October 2003.

"Because of the frequency of administrative tax amnesties, taxpayer compliance has deteriorated," the DOF said in a position paper.

The Voluntary Assessment Program, Voluntary Assessment and Abatement Program, and No-Audit Program are the amnesty programs implemented in the past by the Bureau of Internal Revenue, DOF's attached agency.

The DOF said historical records on estate tax collection did not clearly show whether waiving penalties on delayed tax payments resulted in an increase in revenue collection.

The proposal to waive interest and surcharges slapped on delinquent taxpayers came from the Cebu International Finance Corp., a quasi-banking institution engaged in money market operations.

DTI grants tax perks to SME IT ventures

LOCAL SMALL ENTREPRENEURS are starting to venture into information technology projects to get a share of growing business process outsourcing market, Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila said yesterday.

Favila said the Board of Investments had approved tax incentives to Seven Seven Global Services, Diamedix and Critical Software Systems Consultancy for separate projects worth a total of P21.5 million in investments.

Seven Seven Global Services—jointly owned by Filipinos and Americans—invested P20 million to engage in the development of web-enabled applications, comprehensive programming expertise in web technologies, and other services.

All-Filipino-owned Diamedix Technologies Inc. plans to engage in medical transcription outsourcing service and is investing about P1 million for the initial phase of the project.

Diamedix would provide medical transcription service to United States-based clients including hospitals, clinics, individual doctors and medical specialists.

Critical Software Systems Consultancy, also a Filipino company, is investing P500,000 to provide software testing services for Sonosite Inc., a worldwide market and technology leader in high performance hand-carried ultrasound.

The firm would be responsible for the quality of the embedded software running in the ultrasound device, making sure that all calculations are correct, such as those made in measuring the head circumference of the baby inside a mother's womb. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

Easycall OKs conversion of shareholder advances

By Clarissa S. Batino

EASYCALL COMMUNICATIONS Philippines Inc. has approved the conversion of the P100 million in advances of Global e-Business Solutions Inc. into shares worth P1 each, according to the company's disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Global e-Business is already a majority shareholder of EasyCall, once a prominent paging company that lost its market to text messaging.

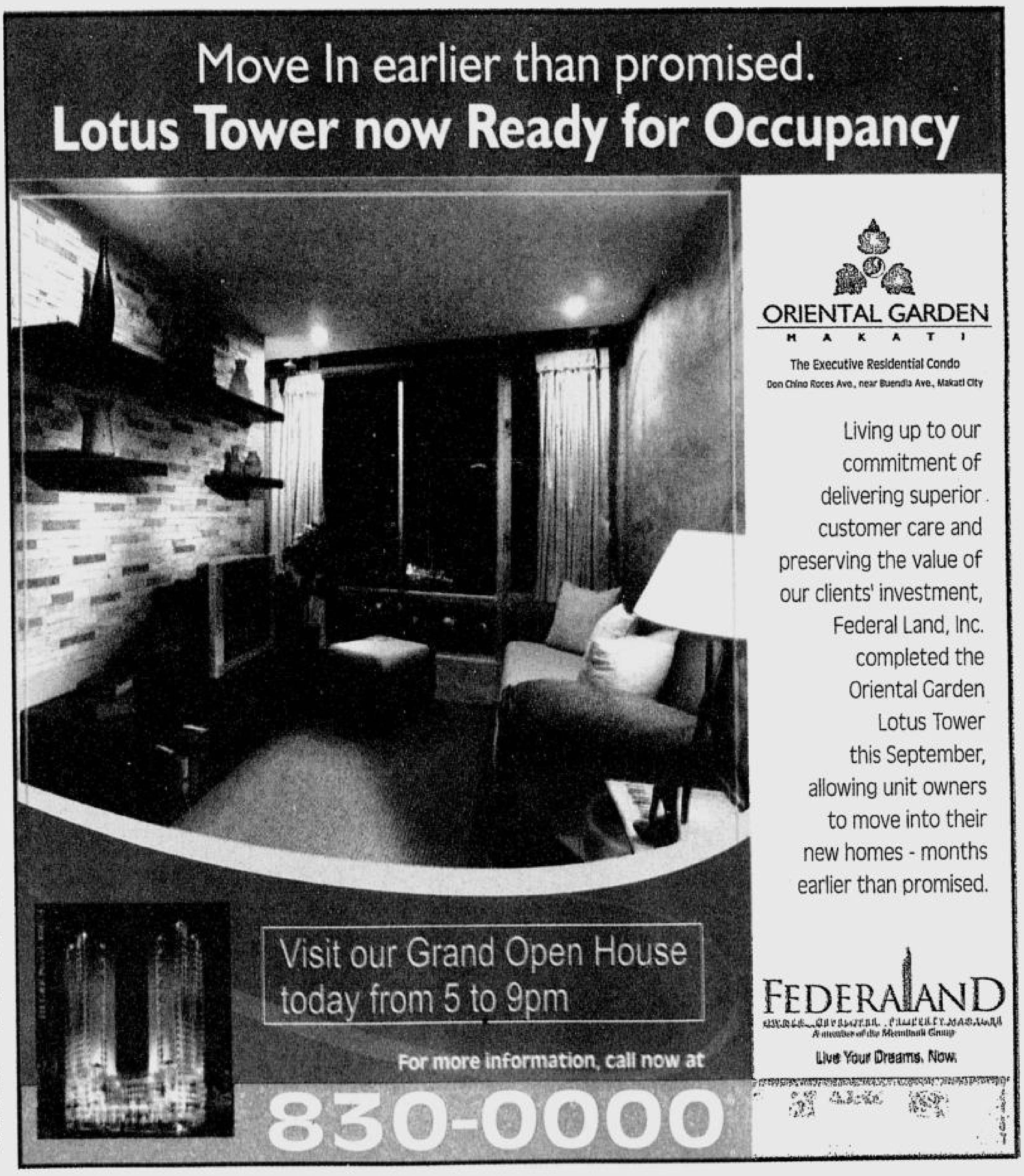
EasyCall, which now specializes in international call center operations, said in December 2004 that Global e-Business had committed to infuse P300 million to pay some debts.

"The board during its regular meeting approved the partial implementation of the private placement of Global e-Business Solutions Inc. in the capital stock of the corporation by converting its advances," the company's disclosure said.

"This private placement has been previously approved by the board and stockholders of the company, which was fully disclosed. The private placement is in the form of 100 million shares," EasyCall added.

Global e-Business is merging EasyCall with another affiliate, Transnational e-Business Solutions Inc.

EasyCall had diversified into information technology and call center operations. It shut down its paging business in 2003 after the service was made obsolete by mobile phone text messaging.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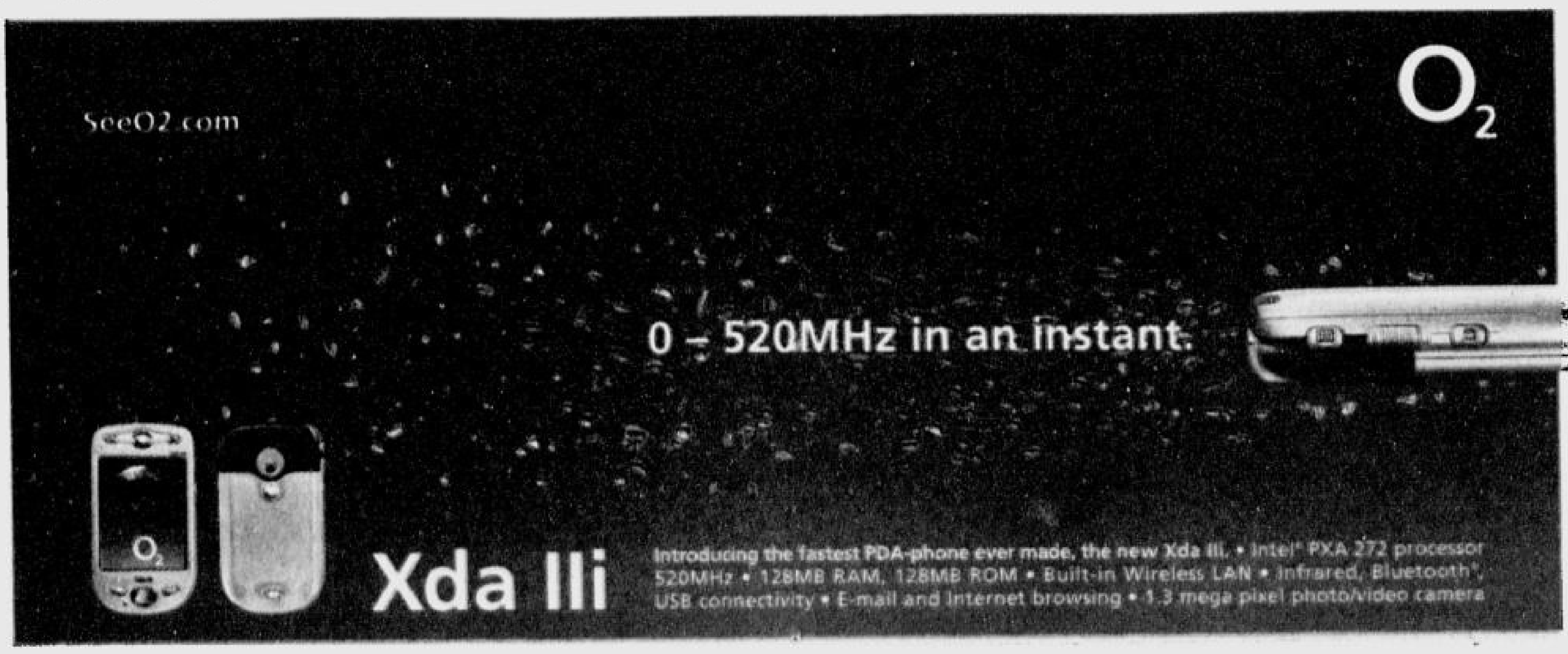
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Having a fighting chance vs aneurysm

By Tessa R. Salazar

A COMMON MISCONCEPTION about aneurysm is that one is powerless against it. It's like a ticking bomb that could explode anytime. Case in point: Albert Einstein who died from a ruptured abdominal aortic aneurysm in 1955.

If this could happen to the greatest scientific mind, how could ordinary people have a fighting chance against the condition?

Aneurysms can develop not only in the brain but in other parts of the body as well. An aortic aneurysm is caused by the weakening of the muscular layer of the major blood vessels. The weakening is usually the result of increasing stress caused by hypertension.

Aneurysms may take months, even years, to expand and develop. If detected early, therapies can be adopted to stop it from reaching its maximum and potentially fatal size.

Modern medical technologies, improved surgical procedures and wellness therapies are giving people a fighting chance against aneurysms.

But as medical procedures for early detection and treatment of aneurysms improve, the risk factors contributing to the condition have been increasing. Smoking, diabetes, hypertension, obesity, and sedentary lifestyles have been known to accelerate the onset of aneurysms.

According to Garcia, the Philippine General Hospital had 210 aneurysm cases from 1998 to 2005, 96 percent of which was abdominal aortic aneurysm; the rest was thoracic aneurysm.

The Philippine Heart Center had 553 aneurysm cases from 1980 to 2002, 78 percent of which was abdominal aortic aneurysm, and 22 percent was thoracic aneurysm.

Advanced warning

"Einstein died of a ruptured aneurysm. This is a preventable death [today]. If you diagnose an aneurysm early, you can operate on it. Einstein could have lived longer," said Dr. Florimond A. Garcia, president of the Philippine Society of Vascular Medicine and former president of the Venous Forum of the Philippines.

Garcia said that 10 years after Einsten died, a treatment for abdominal aortic aneurysm was developed.

What made Einstein's case doubly tragic, Garcia said, was that his aneurysm was detected seven years before he died. In today's medical timetable, that advanced warning would be more than enough to correct the condition.

Size matters

Garcia said the medical urgency of an aneurysm depends on its size. The normal abdominal aorta is about 2 cm in diameter. If it is found to be 3 cm, then it is deemed dilated. If it becomes 4 cm, then it is already considered an aneurysm.

A 4-cm aneurysm has a 1-percent chance of rupturing within five to 10 years. It still would not merit an urgent operation, but doctors regularly monitor patients with aneurysms this size.

But a 5-cm aneurysm signals an immediate need to operate as it has a 12 percent to 15 percent probability of rupturing.

50-50 chance

When an aneurysm ruptures, the resulting internal hemorrhage is akin to that of being shot in the abdomen, Garcia said. There is extreme pain in the abdominal and lower back area. The patient's vision can become blurred, he may have cold perspiration, and even fall unconscious—all of which are symptoms of rapid blood loss.

If a patient is rushed immediately to the hospital after an aneurysm bursts, the chances of survival in a well-equipped hospital would be about 50 percent, Garcia said.

At the Philippine Heart Center, Garcia said his team was able to increase the chances to 60 percent.

Garcia said prevention is still the best "treatment" for aneurysms. People must exercise, eat well and stop smoking. A healthy lifestyle may prevent aneurysms from occurring especially in the area of the brain where blood vessels are more minute and sensitive.

Job hazards

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

A NEW JOB IS SUPPOSED TO EXPAND one's horizons and provide opportunities to learn, but what if certain jobs lead to certain neurodegenerative diseases (NDDs)?

If you knew the odds of getting NDDs as a result of any one job, how much would this information weigh in prior to accepting said position? This question comes to mind following article in the July 2005 issue of the American Journal of Industrial Medicine that links various NDDs with a number of occupations.

According to the paper written by Robert Park of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and his colleagues from a number of occupational safety centers throughout the United States, several jobs are bad for the brain.

Clergy, teachers, hairdressers

For example, biological and medical scientists have increased risks of being diagnosed with Parkinson's disease later on in life. Priests, nuns and other members of the clergy have statistically elevated mortality odds ratios (MORs) for Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and presenile dementia, which usually affects people under 65 and which is often used when referring to early-onset Alzheimer's disease.

Hairdressers have high MORs for Alzheimer's disease, and teachers have increased MOR for all three NDDs mentioned and motor neuron diseases, the most well-known of which is probably ALS or Gehrig's disease, in which the nerves gradually weaken and eventually affect one's ability to move, talk, or even breathe.

On the off-chance that these statements might decrease the number of teachers prepping the minds of our future leaders and workers in other jobs mentioned, it seems wise to examine the data and check the validity of these conclusions.

Previous study

It should be noted that the July article is not the first on this topic. In 1996, Paul Schulte, director of the Education and Information Division of the NIOSH office in Ohio, and his colleagues looked at the death certificates from 27 states between 1982 and 1991 and found statistically significant MORs for the four NDDs mentioned for several professions, among them teachers, medical personnel and scientists, and support/clerical staff.

Unsurprisingly, they also found correlations between NDDs and jobs that involved pesticides, certain chemicals and electromagnetic fields.

For the July 2005 article, Park et al. examined the death certificates of approximately 2.5 million people from 22 states who died between 1992 and 1998. They noted the cause of death attributed to NDD (about 4 percent of their study population) and the occupation of the deceased. They compiled a slightly different list of occupations and calculated the MOR for each of the four NDDs in each occupation.

"Within race groups," Park et al. wrote, "numbers of deaths for dementias were comparable by gender, but men experienced considerably more cases of Parkinson's disease and motor neuron disease than women."

In general, they said, without segregating by profession, the data suggested that the MORs for nearly all of the NDDs increased with age, the lone exception being motor neuron disease.

Final job only

It should be noted that the researchers were not taking into account how long each person stayed in his final job. For example, if your Grade 3 teacher retired after 30 years and then decided to become a farmer and worked the land for a few years before dying, Park et al. would attribute the NDD to farming rather than to all the decades spent drilling students in various multiplication tables and cleaning chalkboard erasers.

Without that background information, it is easy to see how the occupational MORs may be skewed, but it is hard to tell if this was the case here.

While some of the occupations Park et al. listed had similar MORs to those on Schulte et al.'s list, including lawyers, teachers and clergy, they were unable to explain why NDDs were so high for the latter profession.

Also, while they did mention various environmental factors, no correlations were drawn.

More research is required, hopefully with results in less than a decade. In the meantime, this information (or lack thereof) shouldn't deter one from following his/her desired career path. After all, the next time this topic comes around, who knows what occupations may be in the list?

Everyone can learn math

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

MARO C. BLAUTA, ASSISTant Schools Division Superintendent of the Department of Education-Mimaropa in Sta. Cruz, Laguna writes:

I have been following your column with much interest. Last March 12, you mentioned the research of Prof. David Geary that pointed out that people's brains weren't really designed to learn much of mathematics. You also mentioned that modern neurological techniques have revealed that human brains may not have evolved to learn math easily.

But Prof. Mahesh Sharma, director of the Center for Teaching and Learning of Math in Framingham and Wellesley, Massachusetts, in an article in Innotech Journal (January-June 1992) asserted that "Everyone Can Learn Mathematics" if the following prerequisites for learning math are mastered:

- Following sequential direction
- Classification and class inclusion
- Ordering and sequencing
- Spatial orientation/space organization
- Estimation
- Visual clustering
- Pattern recognition and its extension
- Visualization
- Deductive thinking
- Inductive thinking

Can we also invite you to train selected Grades 1 to 3 teachers in our school division on these topics: "Developing the Mathematical Minds of Primary Pupils" and "Entertainment Mathematics"? We consider you to be one of the country's leading math educators, and we hope you can help us improve math teaching and learning and invest in the future of our children.

Right instruction

Thank you for your support and encouragement. I had the pleasure of discussing math education with Professor Sharma when he visited the country more than a decade ago, and yes, I was inspired by his firm belief that everyone could learn math, if given the right instruction.

I agree that with the prerequisites mentioned earlier, learning and teaching math will be made much easier, and in fact, many schools and textbooks recognize this. Thus, they include skills such as estimating, logical thinking and pattern recognition in their math discussions, aside from the usual computation and problem-solving exercises.

I also believe that everyone can learn math, given a master teacher, a genuine desire to learn and a strong grasp of the fundamentals.

Thinking in stages

However, modern scientific techniques have shown that higher math is quite difficult to learn—and I strongly agree with that assertion. Since the groundbreaking work of the famous Swiss psychologist Jean Piaget, we have observed that humans learn to think in stages: from sensory to concrete to abstract, and that many adults cannot hold abstractions well (math is of course the most abstract of all topics in this world). Math indeed can be learned by anyone, but the way to higher math thinking is not smooth.

Thank you for your invitation. I do regularly conduct seminars for teachers, parents and students. However, I will be doing several talks at the end of October, and my calendar until the middle of next year is quite full, so I am sorry to have to decline. But I can ask some colleagues if they are free to conduct the seminar for you. You did not leave an e-mail or return address, so I have to use this column to communicate with you. Can you reply to me via e-mail at blessbook@yahoo.com?

I am happy to note that DepEd has dedicated people who are committed to securing a better future for our children. God bless!

* * *

In last week's column, the tribute to Dr. Armando Kapauan was written not by Dr. Armand Guidote, but by Dr. Assunta Cuyegkeng, another of Kap's protégés. My sincerest apologies.

Cheap branded drugs soon available in Botika ng Bayan

By Charles E. Buban

MAKING LIFE-SAVING MEDICINES available and affordable to more poor Filipinos is not the sole burden of the government; multinational pharmaceutical companies have also been contributing to this effort.

To show its commitment, the pharmaceutical company GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) recently signed a memorandum of agreement with the Philippine International Trading Corp. (PTIC) to have its branded line of medicines available in all Botika ng Bayan outlets nationwide.

The Botika ng Bayan of the Department of Health is a nationwide drug distribution network organized by the PITC that provides more public access to quality essential medicines at an affordable price.

"The agreement is a follow up to our Value Health program [launched last year], wherein we began offering many of our original, researched and branded medicines at a significantly lower price—one, in fact, by as much as 34 percent less than its 2003 price," said GSK president and managing director Amado Tadena.

"The delivery of quality medicines to a greater number of people is a primary concern of our company. The Value Health program and this agreement with PITC is our response to the government's call for lower-priced medicines," said Tadena.

Closer to goals

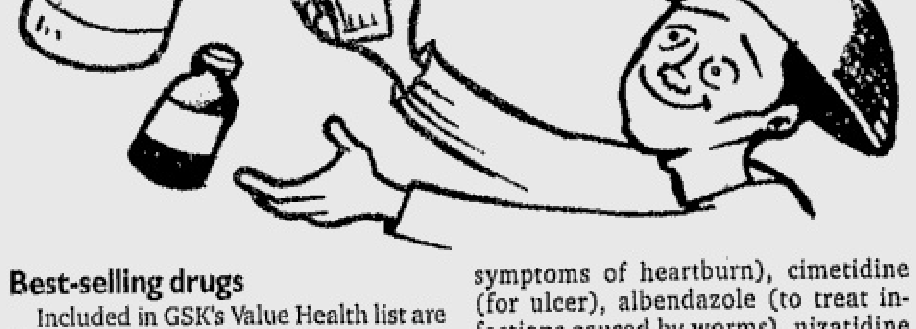
PITC chair and president Roberto Pagdanganan expressed hope that the partnership would help the PITC move closer to its objective to drive down drug prices to levels that the poor can afford and to increase market competition.

"We welcome the valuable support pledged by GSK to this important government endeavor, and the PITC is certainly looking forward to working closely with GSK in realizing our common goals," Pagdanganan said during the signing of the agreement held in Makati City.

The PITC is the sole full-service government-owned international trading company of the Department of Trade and Industry engaged in the export and import of various commodities, including medicines.

Partnering with cooperatives, church organizations, nongovernment organizations and private entrepreneurs, the PITC currently supplies cheap, quality drugs to about 500 drug outlets. It aims to accredit 1,500 drugstores by the end of the year and 3,000 by 2010.

The PITC has been tasked to take the lead in the government's efforts to reduce by half the prices of medicines commonly bought by the poor by 2010.



Best-selling drugs

Included in GSK's Value Health list are the company's bestsellers, salbutamol (for asthma), antibiotics (amoxicillin, cefaclor, cephalexin, erythromycin, and co-trimoxazole), ambrolex (for cough), and rifamcin (for tuberculosis).

Drugs developed by GSK that are in the list include ranitidine (to treat symptoms of heartburn), cimetidine (for ulcer), albendazole (to treat infections caused by worms), nizatidine (to prevent the release of acid into the stomach), dicycloverine (for stomach spasm), metoclopramide (to relieve nausea and vomiting), allopurinol (for gout) and the Calpol brand of paracetamol.

3 items RP lake management body would wish to have

By Jerry E. Esplanada

THEY'RE PROBABLY on the wish list of every Third World lake management body, said former Laguna Lake Development Authority head Edgardo Manda.

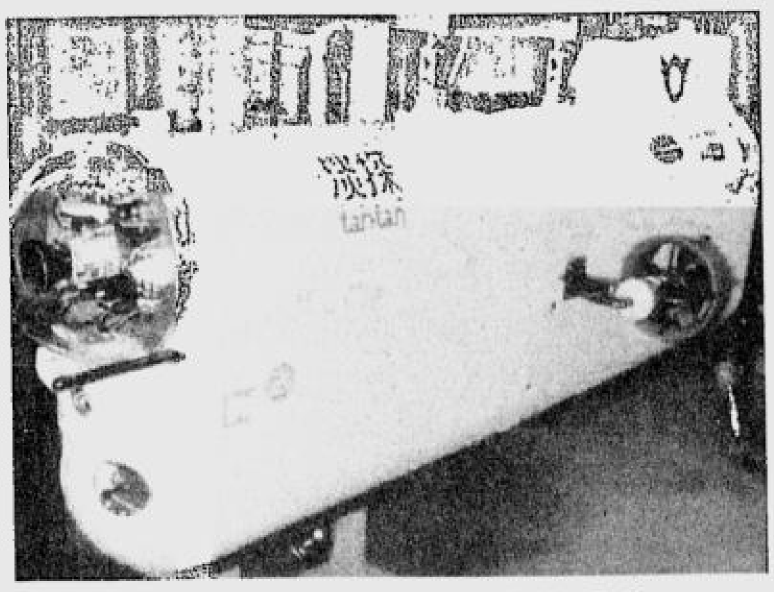
"Even James Bond would love to own all three items," quipped one of his subordinates during the 10th Living Lakes international conference which the country hosted recently.

They are both referring to the Japanese robot "Tan Tan" as wel as the German-made solar boats "Helio" and "Ra."

Tan Tan, which means "fresh water explorer" in Japanese, is an AUV or autonomous underwater vehicle that monitors ecosystem changes at Lake Biwa, Japan's largest lake.

Helio and Ra, on the other hand, are mainstays at Lake Constance in Germany and the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads in England.

The government is exploring the possibility of bringing Tan Tan and emission-free solar boats similar to Helio and Ra to Laguna de Bay and Taal lake, both members of the Living Lakes global network.



THE AUTONOMUS underwater vehicle (AUV) "Tan Tan"

1 robot, 2 solar-power boats

Tan Tan was jointly developed five years ago by the Lake Biwa Research Institute, Japan's Ministry of Construction, Tokyo University and Mitsui Shipbuilder Co. Ltd. mainly to monitor algal blooms and water quality in the lake's North Basin.

It is also capable of, among other tasks, monitoring water temperature, plankton distributions, dissolved oxygen, chlorophyll-afluorescence, redox and turbidity.

The AUV is two meters long, about 0.75 meter in both width and height and weighs 180 kilos.

With a maximum speed of two knots and a diving depth of 150 meters, it can continuously operate up to nearly 20 kilometers.

When conducting stationary monitoring, the AUV can run up to 12 hours.

Both the passenger ferry Helio and catamaran Ra, meanwhile, are emission-free solar power boats developed by the Global Nature Fund, the same Germany-based foundation that established in 1998 the prestigious Living Lakes network.

Living Lakes currently groups more than 30 ecologically threatened lakes and wetlands worldwide, including our very own Laguna de Bay and Taal Lake as well as lakes Biwa and Constance.

Best known for its "Save the Lakes of the World" program, the organization encourages technology transfer among partner lakes.

Gathering environment data

Manda had stressed the need to "actively explore the possibility of borrowing Tan Tan" from the LBRI. "Tan Tan and similar products of modern technology could help the LLDA not only in water quality monitoring but also in gathering other much-needed environmental data," said the former general manager of Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Like Amy Lecciones of the Society for the Conservation of Philippine Wetlands, new LLDA top honcho Casimiro Yñares III said it is a good idea.

The SCPW and the LLDA, along with consumer goods giant Unilever Philippines, are the pillars of the tripartite CLEAR, short for Conservation of Laguna de Bay's Environment and Resources.

CLEAR was behind the Philippine lake's membership bid and subsequent admission to Living Lakes in 2001.

Tan Tan, powered by a set of lithium rechargeable batteries, is "equipped with an acoustic doppler current profiler of 1,200 kHz to obtain its speed relative to the lake bottom. It also has five forehead echo sounders and one upward echo sounder operating at 175 kHz to detect obstacles and avoid collisions."

"A digital video camera is located behind a clear dome at the front of the AUV and is used to provide a forward view. Also, a submersible microscope is attached to detect planktons in water," said the LBRI website.

Communication with the vehicle is "maintained via wireless microwave when surfaced and 16-32kBit/s ultrasonic when submerged. Waypoint setting and tracking functions allow a predetermined three-dimensional path to be set and followed by the AUV's onboard route-following navigation software. As a fail-safe, Tan Tan will automatically surface if communications are lost for more than preset time."

Technology transfer

Prof. Shinji Ide, head of Kosho Net, Japan's lake NGO network, and Lake Biwa's man at Living Lakes, told the INQUIRER he was "strongly supporting the LLDA proposal."

Ide is "very much in favor of technology transfer, as suggested by your LLDA. Sure, it's possible to borrow (Tan Tan) from the institute."

A check with LLDA files said the Japanese government has been providing "technical assistance" to the agency since 1999, mainly through "research activities on water pollution caused by toxic and hazardous wastes like heavy metals and agricultural chemicals and technical training in water and bottom sediments sampling methods."

At 900 square kilometers, the Philippine lake is bigger. Biwa, located near Kyoto, has a surface area of 670 sq km.

Laguna has a maximum depth of 20 meters (in the Diablo Pass area), but heavy siltation has reduced its present depth to an average of 2.5 meters. Biwa's deepest point is listed as 104 meters. Water pollution from various sources is considered the lake's biggest problem.

CLEAR is "open to a wide range of possibilities, including sharing of information and resources among Living Lakes partners," said Chito Macapagal, Unilever general manager for corporate development.

Macapagal strongly supports GNF's "Solar Lakes" campaign which is aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions. "We should not be highly dependent on fossil fuel-backed technology," he stressed.

Macapagal said he was "looking forward to seeing solar boats plying the Laguna lake or Taal lake routes in the near future."

LLDA operations are being carried out by a corps of professionals not only in water-quality monitoring but also in the fields of limnology and environmental management, pollution control, hydrology, water and wastewater analysis and forestry, among others, said the same report.

TOUR on solar boat "Ra"

But "application of modern technology will surely improve current operations, especially in the agency's program to update, if not establish a more accurate science-based baseline data," Manda noted.

Largest septic tank

During the Living Lakes summit in Tagaytay City, Manda reported that Laguna de Bay "has become the largest septic tank for human and industrial wastes from Metro Manila and surrounding localities."

"The lake's organic waste profile shows that 68 percent of the wastes come from humans, 19 percent from industries and 13 percent from other sources," he said.

Apart from 21 tributary rivers which all drain into the lake, Manila Bay also channels through tidal flows polluted waters into the body of water via the dead Pasig River.

Lake-water quality has been monitored by the LLDA since the early 1970s and intensified to monthly readings in several lake stations.

Last year, the lake's overall water quality was "within Class C (water is only good for fishery and irrigation) and Class D (water is only suitable for irrigation)." However, one time it was classified as "worse than Class D."

"From these various indications, we can see that Laguna de Bay is in a very critical status. The LLDA and its partners need to act swiftly, decisively and collectively to arrest the alarming situation," Manda said.

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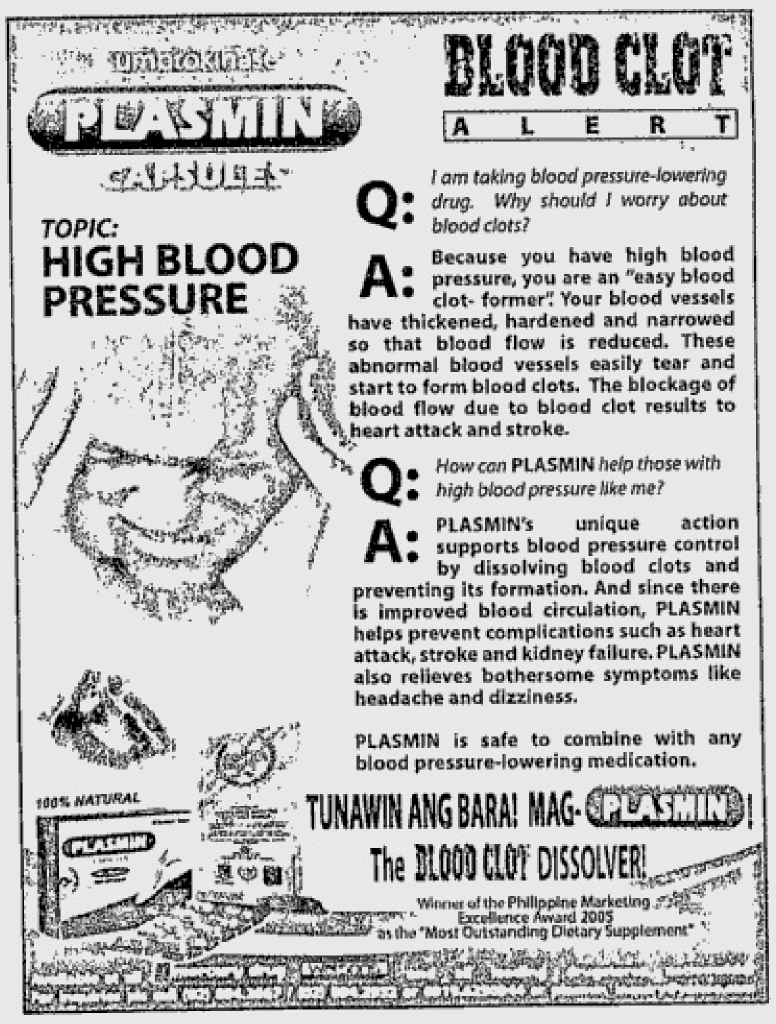
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Losing one's brain through dementia

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

COPENHAGEN—IT'S A PITY WHEN ONE encounters people known for their brilliant minds progressively losing their memory, intelligence and other brain functions.

Dementia is the impairment of brain functions such as memory, reasoning and judgment so severe that it affects a person's ability to function at his usual level. The severity of dementia depends on the number and location of brain cells (neurons) that are damaged or destroyed. Its frequency of occurrence doubles every five years, starting from around 2.5 percent among people aged 65 to more than 30 percent among those above 85.

Researchers are working double-time to identify the various causes of dementia and ways to prevent, or at least, retard it.

Moderate drinking

A study by the Institute of Preventive Medicine at Kommunehospitalet here found that people who drink wine occasionally may have a lower risk of developing dementia, including Alzheimer's disease.

It showed that those who drank wine in moderate quantities weekly or monthly were more than twice less likely to develop dementia. Those who drank wine every day were no more or less likely to develop dementia than those who drank it more or less often.

However, excessive alcohol drinking has been established in other studies to have a destructive effect on the brain cells and other organs like the heart. The problem is determining what is moderate and what is excessive drinking. My usual advice to my patients is to take only 100 cc to 200 cc max of red wine.

"These results don't mean that people should start drinking wine or drink more wine than they usually do," said study author Dr. Thomas Truelsen. "But the results are exciting because they could mean that substances in wine reduce the occurrence of dementia. If that's the case, we could potentially develop treatments or prevention methods based on these substances."

Beer, dementia

What is it in red wine that has a brain-protective effect? It could not be the alcohol because other alcoholic drinks didn't show the same effect. In fact, the study found that occasional beer drinking was associated with an increased risk of developing dementia. Those who drank beer monthly were more than two times more likely to develop dementia than those who never or hardly ever drank beer.

The researchers hypothesize that flavonoids in red wine exert an antioxidant effect and are likely responsible for preventing dementia. Other studies have suggested that flavonoids may account for a lower occurrence of stroke and other cerebrovascular diseases among wine drinkers.

Early detection

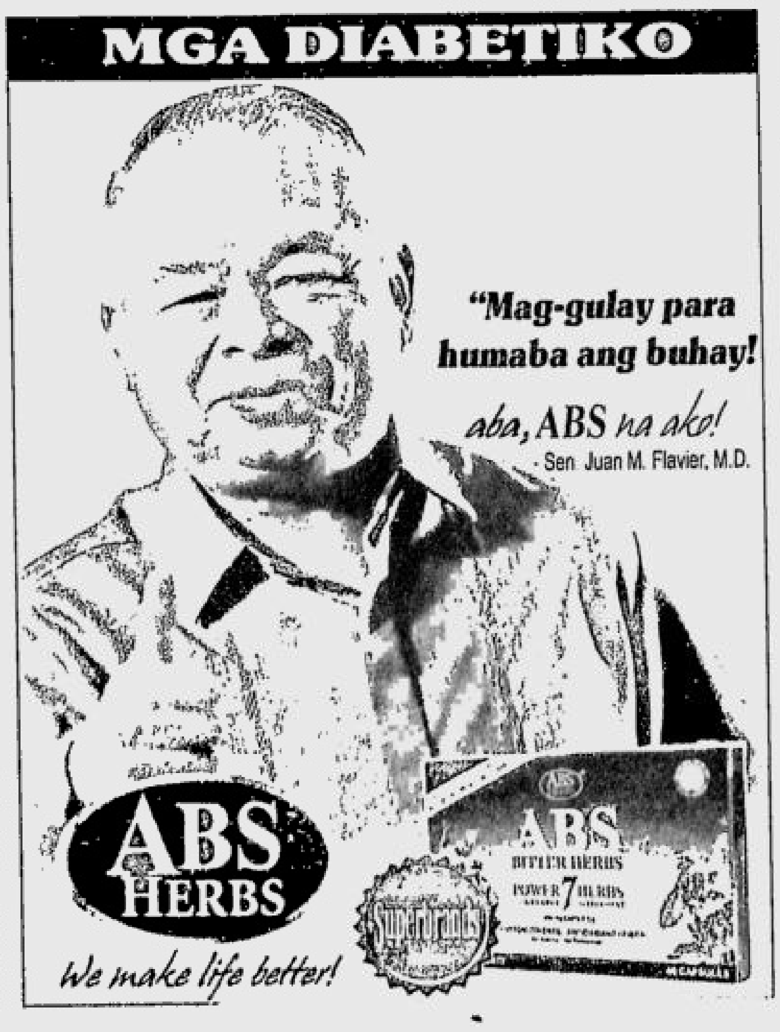
Detecting dementia early is of prime importance. Memory loss is the most common symptom of dementia. However, when one becomes forgetful, one should not panic that he might have dementia. A little trouble remembering names or events is normal in aging. Normal memory loss does not interfere with the activities of daily living.

Memory loss that becomes worse with time usually means that a person has lost some thinking (cognitive) ability. A person may have mild cognitive impairment, a middle ground between normal functioning and dementia. People who have mild impairment may be in the earliest stage of dementia, or they may remain at the existing level of ability for a long time.

A person who has progressive memory loss or exhibits unusual behavior and changes in personality should see a health professional. In most instances, he may have already lost the judgment to decide to see a doctor, so relatives or caregivers must take the initiative to bring him to the doctor. Tests can be done to find the cause and to assess the level of mental functioning.

Recognizing the importance of dementia recognition, specialty clinics dedicated to this problem have been established abroad and we're happy that we already have one such clinic in the Philippines. The Memory Plus Center is a newly opened facility at the Makati Medical Center that offers services for the diagnosis and treatment of illnesses causing dementia.

A brainchild of Dr. Regina Macalintal-Canlas, section chief of the Neurology Section, the clinic is managed by Dr. Paulino Tenchavez, director; Dr. Ma. Teresa Gustilo-Villasor, co-director; and Dr. Darwin Dasig, Dr. Perry Noble and Jinky Rosuello as its core staff. For more information call 815-9911 or 892-5544 local 7154.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HEART WATCH

You Don't Need To Be A Statistic

Cholesterol related deaths accounted for at least a hundred thousand Filipino deaths in 2000 alone. Those people could have still been productive up to now if only their blood cholesterol were effectively lowered.

There are up to three times the number of cardiovascular deaths in the Philippines from the ages 35 to 64 as compared to that in the West. These people began living limited lives as soon as they developed high-risk coronary heart disease and they were plagued by this condition till their deaths. Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the Philippines and this situtiion will only grow worse with people continuing to disregard the risk factors which are the result of their lifestyle.

The World Health Organization estimates that there were around 16.7 million deaths in 2002 due to heart or blood vessel diseases and this number will only rise hitting 20 million in 15 years adding another 4 million in another 10 years.

You do not want to be part of that number.

You can do something about it and a lifestyle change plus a more complete evaluation of your body are in order. You need to have your cholesterol levels checked by a health professional so that proper advice may be given to you. Regular exercise and a low saturated fat diet will put you on the right track.

Since heredity does play a major part in your body's cholesterol production, this lifestyle change may not be enough. Companies like Schering-Plough have been looking at this combined problem of diet, lifestyle coupled with a family background of high cholesterol production and they are coming out with answers that come through medication.

Already their research has resulted in medication complementing existing bad cholesterol inhibition as well as one that does the work of two medications. These two solutions will go hand-in-hand with that lifestyle change, a much healthier diet, diabetes management, blood pressure control, physical activity, weight management and the cessation of smoking.

It is sad that even people who have suffered a heart attack have not been that active in turning around their lives even though they have a much higher risk of another event. They need the best treatment and the most change.

If you are to be a statistic, shouldn't you be part of those who turned their cholesterol situation around?

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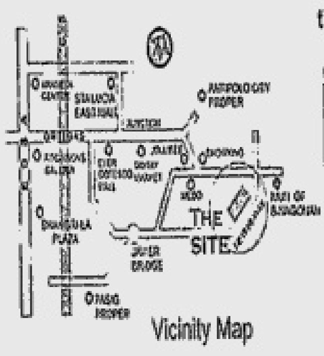
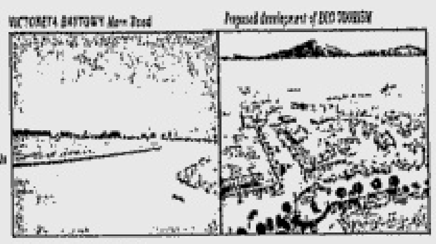


Vicinity Map



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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE VICTOR E. BALOTA IS EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLED BY AND AMONG HIS HEIRS PER DOC. NO. 96 PAGE NO. 20 BOOK NO. XIX SERIES 2005 OF NOTARY PUBLIC ATTY. PEPITO G. PO OF MAKATI CITY METRO MANILA (PDI SEPT. 3,10 & 17, 2005)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ARNULFO B. AURELLANO has been extrajudicially settled by the heirs as per Doc. No. 341, Page No. 69, Book No. 1, Series of 2005 before Notary Public Agapito F. Fajardo, Jr. of Quezon City. (PDI-Sept. 3, 10, & 17 2005)

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LAND REFORM
Provincial Land Reform Office
Mabini Extension, Cabanatuan City

NOTICE OF COVERAGE

Pursuant to Section 7 of Republic Act (RA) No. 6657, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988, the Republic of the Philippines, thru the Department of Land Reform (DLR), hereby subjects under the coverage of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) your landholdings with the following description.

Registered Landowner/s	Location	Title No.
Alfredo Santos	Sta. Cruz, Gapan, Nueva Ecija	TCT No. NT-172649
Sps. Dr. Lino Bernardo & Enrica de Guzman	Sta. Cruz, Gapan, Nueva Ecija	TCT Nos. NT-52070, NT-126796, NT-23927, NT-43435,& NT-156916
Jose Garcia	Calios, Peñaranda, Nueva Ecija	TCT No. NT-141565
Isidro Bantug	Calios, Peñaranda, Nueva Ecija	TCT No. NT-44045
Isidro Bantug	Calios, Peñaranda, Nueva Ecija	TCT No. NT-44044
Felipe Baris	Calios, Peñaranda, Nueva Ecija	TCT No. NT-17885
Teresita Torres	San Jose, San Antonio, Nueva Ecija	OCT No. P-3284/HP-100134
Cirilo Lustre	Sto. Cristo, San Antonio, Nueva Ecija	OCT No. P-5235
Francisco Magno	Panabingan, San Antonio, Nueva Ecija	OCT No. P-5333
Pilar Magno et. al	San Jose, San Antonio, Nueva Ecija	TCT Nos. NT-47289 & NT-47290
Francisco Magno & Araceli Magno	San Jose, San Antonio, Nueva Ecija	TCT No. NT-83566
DBP (Rafael Chico)	San Francisco, San Antonio, Nueva Ecija	OCT No. 6324
DBP (Rafael Chico & Salud Cristobal)	San Francisco, San Antonio, Nueva Ecija	TCT No. T-4813
Sps. Gabriel Torres & Roberto Francisco	San Jose, San Antonio, Nueva Ecija	TCT No. NT-77167 & OCT-P-3265
Pascual Cando	Papaya, San Antonio, Nueva Ecija	TCT No. NT-109567
Manuel Nery	Lusok, Bongabon, Nueva Ecija	TCT No. NT-747, & OCT No. 21028
Paraiso Abad & Eugenio Domingo	Antipolo, Bongabon, Nueva Ecija	TCT No. NT-71050
Jose Nery	Lusok, Bongabon, Nueva Ecija	TCT Nos. NT-840 and NT-21028
Cristeta Bringas	Olivete, Bongabon, Nueva Ecija	OCT No. 1726
Vicente Nery	Simpil, Bongabon, Nueva Ecija	TCT Nos. NT-90869 to NT-90877, NT-90880 to NT-90907, NT-90912 to NT-90920, NT-90925 to NT-90994, NT-90998 to NT-91004, NT-91007 to NT-91014, NT-91020 to NT-91054, NT-91057 to NT-91089, NT-91105 to NT-91111
Vicente T. Nery et. al	Bongabon, Nueva Ecija	TCT No. NT-117554
Vicente T. Nery	Bongabon, Nueva Ecija	TCT Nos. NT-117555 to NT-117557
DBP-Horacio Gonzales	Laur, Nueva Ecija	TCT No. NT-58044
PNB Angeles Branch	Peñaranda, Nueva Ecija	TCT No. NT-280944
Leocadia Figueroa, Gloria Diaz, Fe F. Gatan, Esperanza F. Rivera & Angelica Padilla	Valle Cruz, Cabanatuan City	TCT No. T-3115
Juanita Morte	Bakod Bayan, Cabanatuan City	TCT No. T-8306
Carmen Lopez	Pangatian, Cabanatuan City	TCT No. 1880

Whenever applicable, you have the right or privilege to:

1. apply for an exemption clearance or for exclusion from CARP coverage;
2. choose your retention area not exceeding five (5) hectares pursuant to Section 6 of RA No. 6657;
3. nominate your children who may qualify as preferred beneficiary/ies to the subject landholding;

To exercise any of above rights/privileges, the necessary or petition should be filed before the Government incurs any expense necessary for acquisition and distribution of the subject landholding, within thirty (30) calendar days from receipt of this Notice of Coverage (NOC) or in cases when publication is necessary thirty (30) days from the date of its publication.

Within thirty (30) days from receipt of this NOC, you are required to submit to the DLR Provincial Office (DLRPO) a sketch map of the area you intend to retain. Otherwise, the DLR will identify and choose the retention area in your behalf.

The privilege to nominate your children who may qualify as preferred beneficiary/ies is waived if you fail to submit to the DLR Municipal Office (DLRMO), within thirty (30) days from receipt of this NOC, the proper application with the complete names of your nominees, their address, birth dates, and other relevant information.

Please submit to the DLRMO, within thirty (30) days from publication of this NOC, a Statement of Production and Net Income, or the applicable audited financial statement, which shall include, among others, total production and cost of operations on a per crop basis and selling prices (farm gate) on the said landholding which shall be considered in the determination of the land value pursuant to Section 17 of R.A. No. 6657 and other applicable rules and regulations. In the event that you fail to submit the above documents within the prescribed period, the DLR and LBP shall adopt applicable industry data or in the absence thereof, conduct an industry study on the specific crop which shall be used in determining the production, cost and net income of the subject landholding.

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 405, dated 14 June 1990, the LBP shall determine the land value of the subject landholding. You shall be notified accordingly as soon as the DLR receives the LBP's Memorandum of Valuation.

For any guidance and assistance needed, please see our Municipal Land Reform Officer in the City or Municipality where your landholding(s) is/are located, or the undersigned.

(Sgd.) ALFONSO R. RAYO
Provincial Land Reform Officer II

(PDI – Sept. 10, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Intramuros, Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) invites all interested bidders to participate in the bidding for the **JANITORIAL SERVICES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT – CENTRAL OFFICE FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2006** with an approved budget of =P= 4,587,215.93.

Interested bidders must register by submitting the registration requirements to the Property Division, Administrative Service, 2nd Floor, DOLE Building, Muralla Street, Intramuros, Manila starting September 5, 2005. Deadline for registration is on September 14, 2005 at 5:00 p.m.

Only bidders duly registered with the DOLE shall be allowed to participate in the competitive bidding activities, to wit:

ACTIVITY	DATE	TIME	VENUE
Pre-Bid Conference	Sept. 15, 2005	1:30 p.m.	Conference Room, 2nd Floor, DOLE Executive Building., San Jose Street, Intramuros, Manila
Submission of Eligibility Requirements	Sept. 23, 2005	Between 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	-same-
Submission of Bids	Oct.7, 2005	Between 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	-same-

Eligibility requirements shall be distributed during the Pre-Bid Conference or they can be secured on September 15, 2005 from the Property Division, Administrative Service, 2nd Floor, DOLE Bldg., Muralla Street, Intramuros, Manila.

On September 23, 2005, bidders shall submit their eligibility documents in a sealed envelope to the DOLE Bids and Awards Committee (BAC). The envelope shall be marked with the title "JANITORIAL SERVICES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT – CENTRAL OFFICE FOR CY 2006" and the name of the bidder in capital letters.

Interested parties are required to submit their bids, personally or through their authorized representatives, on October 7, 2005. The DOLE reserves the right to reject any or all bids, without offering any reason, waive any informality therein and make an award to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the Department. The DOLE assumes no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

For further inquiries/information please get in touch with Ms. Lily Pearl L. Guerrero and Ms. Liberty C. Angeles, members of the BAC Secretariat at telephone number 527-3480.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. MA. ANTHONETTE VELASCO-ALLONES**
Assistant Secretary and
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Sept. 3 & 10, 2005)

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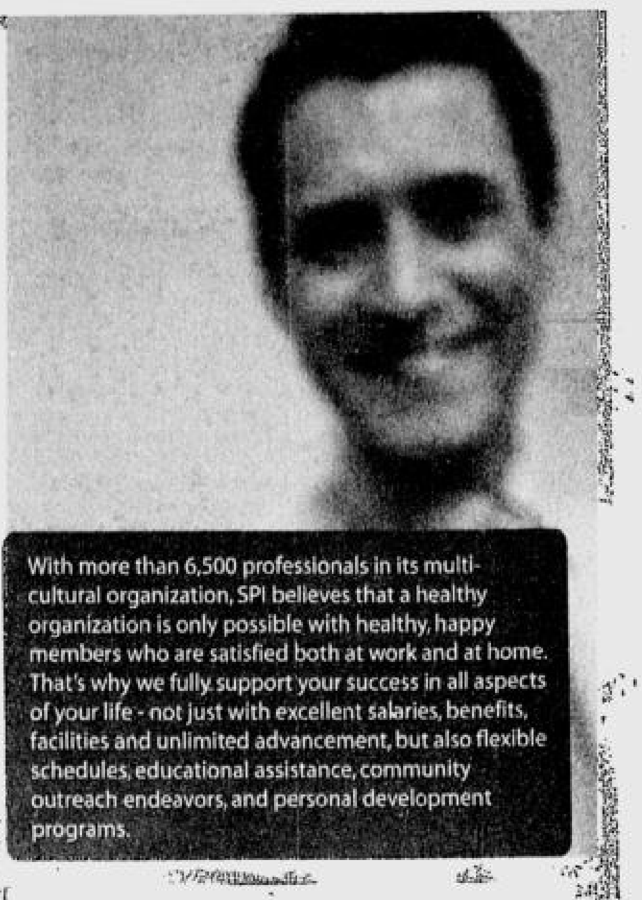

With more than 6,500 professionals in its multi-cultural organization, SPI believes that a healthy organization is only possible with healthy, happy members who are satisfied both at work and at home. That's why we fully support your success in all aspects of your life - not just with excellent salaries, benefits, facilities and unlimited advancement, but also flexible schedules, educational assistance, community outreach endeavors, and personal development programs.

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- Excellent skills in systems analysis and design, and technical documentation
- Must have actual experience in Crystal Report, SQL, VB.Net. Skill in Visual Studio.Net, a plus
- Has good oral and written communication skills
- Applicants must be willing to work in Paranaque City

PROGRAMMERS (PDI-PRG)

- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/ College Degree in Computer Science/ Information Technology or equivalent
- Must have actual experience in Crystal Report, SQL, VB.Net. Skill in Visual Studio.Net, a plus
- With at least 3 years of work experience specializing in IT/Computer - Software or equivalent
- Applicants with 2 years experience in a supervisory capacity are encouraged to apply
- Has good oral and written communication skills
- Flexible and results-oriented
- Willing and able to start with SPI immediately
- Applicants must be willing to work in Paranaque City

Qualified candidates may send their updated resumes to:
For PDI-SMGR: **j.labis@spitech.com**
For PDI-PRG: **r.araga@spitech.com**

Submit personally or mail application to:
SPI Technologies
SPI Building, Pascor Drive
Sto. Niño, Parañaque City 1700

Include position code on the envelope or in the subject line.

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

DepED
Telefax 631-96-40 • Direct Line 633-93-42
Trunk Line 632-13-61 local 2221 2007
E-Mail Address jmluz@deped.gov.ph
Website http://www.deped.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Education, Division Offices, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contracts:

DIV/ADDRESS	BULACAN Malolos, Bulacan	ILOCOS SUR Vigan, Ilocos Sur
Name of Contract	Repair and Rehab of School Bldgs. : Camias ES, Bulualto ES, Sta. Lucia ES, Bantog ES	Repair and Rehab of School Bldgs : Sived Community School, Laoingan ES
Location	San Miguel	Sto. Domingo
Approved Budget for the Contract	P965,316.72	P488,020.91
Contract Duration	45 calendar days	60 calendar days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (Listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the execution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check / Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to the Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Pre-bid Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The schedule of the BAC activities is as follows:

BAC ACTIVITIES	BULACAN Malolos, Bulacan	ILOCOS SUR Vigan, Ilocos Sur
Issuance of Eligibility Forms	September 5 - 9, 2005	September 5 - 9, 2005
Deadline for Receipt of Eligibility Reqmts.	September 12, 2005	September 12, 2005
Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	September 14, 2005	September 14, 2005
Issuance of Bid Documents	September 15 - 21, 2005	September 15 - 21, 2005
Pre-bid Conference	September 28, 2005; 10:00 a.m.	September 28, 2005; 10:00 a.m.
Receipt and Opening of Bids	October 12, 2005 10:00 a.m.	October 12, 2005 10:00 a.m.

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at the respective Division Offices, upon their submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI). Prospective bidders shall submit their Eligibility Requirements to the Division BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bid Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P2,000.00 for the Bidding Documents to the Division Office's Cashier.

The Division Office assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for the expenses incurred in the preparation of bids.

The DepED Division BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without incurring any liability to the affected parties.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ**
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Sept. 3 & 10, 2005)

RP developers join delegation to Japan, organize property expo

THE PHILIPPINE CHAPTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL REAL Estate Federation (FIABCI) will be joining the Asia Pacific Real Estate Congress (Aprec) for the first time this year. It will be held in Osaka, Japan on Sept. 28, 29 and 30. APREC is a yearly event conducted to bring together real estate professionals from around the world. Under the theme of "Urban Renaissance and the Real Estate Industry," this year's APREC will focus on information exchange on various issue confronting mega cities in the Asia Pacific. There will be a exhibition featuring top developers and the best availabl properties in the region, including those coming from the Philippines.

The Philippine Delegation will also hold a three-day post-Congress project presentation in Tokyo starting October 1 for Filipino groups who will not be able to travel to Osaka for the Aprec. The goal is not only to get immersed in the concerns surrounding the International Real Estate Community but more so to create a lasting business relationship with FIABCI-Japan and the Filipino communities there.

Participants include some of the most outstanding industry players in the country including V.V. Soliven Group of Companies, F.S. Dulalia Realty, Duraville Realty and Development Corp, Starland Properties, Inc., Asian Pacific Estates Development Corporation, Federal Land, Inc., Megaworld Corporation, and Rovland Realty, among others. The Philippine delegate at this year's APREC is supported by the PAG-IBIG Fund, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) and the Japanese Embassy.

For more information please contact us at, 63.2.6681257 or mobile phone number 63.917.8503829.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PROCUREMENT SERVICE

5th Floor. Mabini Bldg. DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City
Telephone Nos. 636-65-43; Telefax No. 6366542, 633-93-43
Website: http://www.DepED.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **Department Of Education Division Offices,** through its Division Bids and Awards Committees (BAC's), invites suppliers/ manufacturers/ distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

NAME OF PROJECT	:	**Supply and Delivery of Elementary Tables & Chairs and Secondary Armchairs**
LOCATION	:	Various Division Offices of the Department of Education
BRIEF DESCRIPTION	:	Lot A : Elementary Tables & Chairs Lot B : Secondary Armchairs Lot C : Elementary Tables & Chairs Lot D : Secondary Armchairs
ABC & FUNDING SOURCE	:	Funding Source is the Government of the Philippines (GOP), 2004 and 2005 General Appropriations Act (GAA) (75% Allocation)
CONTRACT DURATION	:	One Hundred Twenty (120) Calendar Days
DELIVERY SITES	:	"Door to door" delivery to various recipient schools (See Schedule of Requirements of the Bidding Documents)

PROCURING ENTITY		APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (ABC)							
		CY 2004				CY 2005			
DepED Division Office	Address (See Deped Website for details)	Lot A (Elem. Tables and Chairs)		Lot B (Secondary Arm Chairs)		Lot C (Elem. Tables and Chairs)		Lot D (Secondary Arm Chairs)	
		Qty	Amount	Qty	Amount	Qty	Amount	Qty	Amount
REGION II									
1. TUGUEGARAO CITY	Tuguegarao Cagayan	–	–	901	495,550.00	581	697,200.00	–	–
2 ISABELA	Isabela, Isabela	2,574	3,088,800.00	3,326	1,829,300.00	6,468	7,761,600.00	4,771	2,624,050.00
3 NUEVA VISCAYA	Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya	720	864,000.00	546	300,300.00	1,190	1,428,000.00	2,067	1,136,850.00
4 QUIRINO	Cabarroguis, Quirino	194	232,800.00	569	312,950.00	352	422,400.00	1,638	900,900.00
REGION IV-A									
1 BATANGAS	Batangas City	1,940	2,328,000.00	4,236	2,329,800.00	4,002	4,802,400.00	8,738	4,805,900.00
2 BATANGAS CITY	Batangas City	109	130,800.00	234	128,700.00	523	627,600.00	1,137	625,350.00
3 CAVITE	Trece Martirez City	4,620	5,544,000.00	3,135	1,724,250.00	7,058	8,469,600.00	4,915	2,703,250.00
4 CAVITE CITY	Cavite City	148	214,600.00	317	215,560.00	235	340,750.00	501	340,680.00
5 LAGUNA	Sta. Cruz, Laguna	2,031	2,437,200.00	4,451	2,448,050.00	5,045	6,054,000.00	4,949	2,721,950.00
6 CALAMBA CITY	Calamba City	–	–	1,621	891,550.00	1,043	1,251,600.00	–	–
7 SAN PABLO CITY	San Pablo City	290	348,000.00	207	113,850.00	350	420,000.00	1,082	595,100.00
8 QUEZON	Talipan, Pagbilao, Quezon	3,506	4,207,200.00	4,146	2,280,300.00	7,782	9,338,400.00	12,336	6,784,800.00
REGION IV-B									
1 ROMBLON	Romblon, Romblon	285	342,000.00	1,565	860,750.00	438	525,600.00	4,360	2,398,000.00
REGION VI									
1 AKLAN	Kalibo, Aklan	605	1,203,950.00	1,674	920,700.00	2,970	3,564,000.00	4,145	2,279,750.00
2 ANTIQUE	San Jose, Antique	1,646	1,975,200.00	–	–	1,933	2,319,600.00	3,179	1,748,450.00
3 SAN CARLOS CITY	San Carlos City, Negros Occ.	305	366,000.00	–	–	365	438,000.00	350	192,500.00
REGION VII									
1 BOHOL	Tagbilaran City	1,211	1,453,200.00	6,009	2,704,050.00	2,909	3,490,800.00	14,416	6,487,200.00
2 CEBU	Cebu City	3,602	4,322,400.00	5,287	2,907,850.00	9,386	11,263,200.00	10,242	5,633,100.00
3 MANDAUE CITY	Mandaue City	325	354,250.00	615	295,200.00	175	190,750.00	1,956	938,880.00
4 NEGROS ORIENTAL	Dumaguete City	2,444	2,853,960.00	2,432	1,037,977.60	5,252	5,724,680.00	7,078	3,020,890.40
5 DUMAGUETE CITY	Dumaguete City	–	–	511	281,050.00	100	120,000.00	753	414,150.00
6 TANJAY CITY	Tanjay City	130	156,000.00	199	109,450.00	160	192,000.00	343	188,650.00
7 BAYAWAN CITY	Bayawan City	240	288,000.00	366	201,300.00	333	399,600.00	581	319,550.00
8 CEBU CITY	Cebu City	1,125	1,237,500.00	2,484	1,316,520.00	2,640	2,904,000.00	4,112	2,179,360.00
REGION VIII - EASTERN VISAYAS									
1 BILIRAN	Naval, Leyte	322	386,400.00	272	149,600.00	480	576,000.00	907	498,850.00
2 LEYTE	Tacloban City	2,711	3,253,200.00	3,348	1,841,400.00	6,665	7,998,000.00	6,215	3,418,250.00
3 TACLOBAN CITY	Tacloban City	–	–	1,194	656,700.00	696	835,200.00	325	178,750.00
4 ORMOC CITY	Ormoc City	157	142,870.00	750	307,500.00	547	497,770.00	692	365,720.00
5 SOUTHERN LEYTE	Maasin, Southern Leyte	574	688,800.00	909	499,950.00	613	735,600.00	2,553	1,404,150.00
6 MAASIN CITY	Maasin, Southern Leyte	–	–	–	–	234	257,400.00	300	150,000.00
7 EASTERN SAMAR	Borongan, Eastern Samar	750	900,000.00	1,071	589,050.00	2,250	2,700,000.00	2,683	1,475,650.00
8 NORTHERN SAMAR	Catarman, Northern Samar	1,388	1,665,600.00	1,035	569,250.00	3,465	4,158,000.00	3,619	1,990,450.00
9 SAMAR	Catbalogan, Samar	1,544	1,930,000.00	881	481,843.40	3,538	4,422,500.00	1,976	1,105,374.40
10* CALBAYOG CITY	Calbayog City	380	345,040.00	300	124,800.00	779	707,332.00	500	208,000.00
REGION IX									
1 ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY	Sibugay	922	1,106,400.00	2,829	1,555,950.00	4,070	4,884,000.00	4,751	2,613,050.00
REGION X									
1 MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL	Oroquieta City	573	687,600.00	826	454,300.00	1,094	1,312,800.00	1,748	961,400.00
2 MISAMIS ORIENTAL	Cagayan de Oro City	1,290	1,548,000.00	1,611	886,050.00	2,765	3,318,000.00	5,248	2,886,400.00
3* GINGOOG CITY	Gingoog City	213	255,600.00	281	154,550.00	330	396,000.00	550	302,500.00
4 CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY	Cagayan de Oro City	323	387,600.00	2,542	1,398,100.00	1,140	1,368,000.00	2,737	1,505,350.00
REGION XIII									
1 AGUSAN DEL NORTE	Butuan City, Agusan del Norte	718	861,600.00	499	274,450.00	1,521	1,825,200.00	1,076	591,800.00
2 BUTUAN CITY	Butuan City, Agusan del Norte	669	802,800.00	883	485,650.00	1,148	1,377,600.00	1,251	688,050.00
3 AGUSAN DEL SUR	San Francisco, Agusan del Sur	2,223	2,867,600.00	–	–	–	–	9,925	5,458,750.00
4* SIARGAO	Dapa, Siargao	274	328,800.00	219	120,450.00	450	540,000.00	1,119	615,450.00
5 SURIGAO DEL SUR	Tandag, Surigao del Sur	394	472,800.00	2,201	1,210,550.00	–	–	5,946	3,270,300.00
6 BISLIG CITY	Bislig City	260	312,000.00	379	208,450.00	543	651,600.00	782	430,100.00
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION (NCR)									
1 MANILA	City Hall, Manila	2,279	2,734,800.00	6,799	3,739,450.00	2,695	3,234,000.00	7,733	4,253,150.00
2 QUEZON CITY	Misamis St. Bago Bantay, Q.C.	2,270	2,724,000.00	11,559	6,357,450.00	3,866	4,639,200.00	19,688	10,828,400.00
3 MARIKINA CITY	Sta. Elena, Marikina City	–	–	2,717	1,494,350.00	–	–	3,512	1,931,600.00
4 PASIG CITY & SAN JUAN	Caruncho Ave., Pasig City	–	–	3,372	1,854,600.00	–	–	4,412	2,426,600.00
5 CALOOCAN CITY	10th Ave. Caloocan City	1,500	1,800,000.00	7,599	4,179,450.00	2,850	3,420,000.00	9,048	4,976,400.00
6 VALENZUELA CITY	Marulas, Valenzuela City	1,214	1,456,800.00	1,314	722,700.00	1,754	2,104,800.00	1,900	1,045,000.00
7 MALABON CITY-NAVOTAS	Dagat-Dagatan, Malabon City	929	1,114,800.00	2,988	1,643,400.00	1,510	1,812,000.00	4,135	2,274,250.00
8 MAKATI CITY	Gen. Luna St., Makati City	1,000	1,200,000.00	–	–	–	–		–
9 PARAÑAQUE CITY	Kabihasnan, Paranaque City	425	510,000.00	2,747	1,510,850.00	–	–	5,218	2,869,900.00
10 LAS PIÑAS CITY	Las Pinas City	–	–	4,039	2,221,450.00	–	–	5,715	3,143,250.00
11 MUNTINLUPA CITY	Poblacion, Muntinlupa City	241	289,200.00	2,065	1,135,750.00	–	–	–	–
12 TAGUIG AND PATEROS	Capina Elem. Sch., Taguig	225	270,000.00	3,351	1,843,050.00	–	–	5,246	2,885,300.00

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184 known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interests or outstanding capital stocks belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II, Instruction to Bidders of the Bidding Documents.

The DepED Division Offices will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all prospective bidders on September 23, 2005, 10:00 a.m. at the Division Offices.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184 known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interests or outstanding capital stocks belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II, Instruction to Bidders of the Bidding Documents.

The **DepED Division Offices** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all prospective bidders on **September 23, 2005, 10:00 a.m. at the Division Offices.**
Bids must be received on or before **October 6, 2005, 10:00 a.m. at the Division Office.** Late Bids shall be rejected.

Bids in excess of the Approved Budget for the Contract per Lot shall be rejected.

Bid Documents will be available to **prospective bidders** upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **Two Thousand Pesos Only (Php2,000.00)** to the Division Office's Cashier.

The Department of Education, reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) **JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ**
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

Date of Publication : September 10 & 17, 2005
Newspaper : Philippine Daily Inquirer

Schools First Means Students First

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION
North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
P.O. Box 70, U.P. Diliman, Quezon City
TIN 0000-784-336

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) through its Bidding and Awards Committee (BAC) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of:

CONTRACT FOR JANITORIAL SERVICES
C.Y. 2005-2006
Approved Budget for the Contract - Php2,220,000.00

Schedule of Bidding Activities

Issuance of Eligibility & Bidding Documents	September 13-27, 2005 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. SRA Bidding Secretariat 3rd Floor Annex Building Sugar Regulatory Administration North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City for a non-refundable fee of Php 2,000.00
Pre-Bid Conference	October 4, 2005 9:00 a.m. Training Room, Sugar Regulatory Administration North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Submission & Opening of Eligibility & Bid Envelopes	October 18, 2005 9:00 a.m. Training Room, Sugar Regulatory Administration North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

For particulars, please contact:

The Bidding Secretariat - Telephone No. 929-6837

All particulars relative to the Eligibility, Bid bond, Pre-bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contracts shall be governed by the provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations and other applicable government rules and regulations.

The SRA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of the bids.

The SRA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality therein or accept any bid(s) or offer(s) which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to the government.

(Sgd.) **JAMES C. LEDESMA**
Administrator

(PDI - Sept. 10 & 17, 2005)

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Etra-Ordinary Show, Extra-ordinary Man!

"UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH MARISSA del Mar" features the country's prime mover behind the Liga ng mga Barangay, the visionary Marty Lim.

Twice-elected as the National President of the Liga ng mga Barangay, James Marty Lim upholds the importance of the Barangay as the basic political unit of the country. In his early encounters with the Barangay officials of the Municipality of Gasan, Marinduque where he hails, James Marty Lim had the first realization of how important the position of these Barangay officials are, specially in the delivery of basic services to their constituents. It was this realization that stirred in him the ideals, bringing him to the highest seat of the Liga ng mga Barangay.

In his pursuit of his vision, "The Barangay: A strong pillar of governance giving quality service to the Filipino People", James Marty Lim is also a member of different committees promoting the Barangay representation, participation and involvement in a wide spectrum of national and local concerns, both in the public and private sectors of the society.

On "Up Close and Personal with Marissa del Mar" of IBC 13, this extra-ordinary gentleman will share more of himself and his ideals to the people, and will elaborate more on the importance of the basic political unit called the Barangay.

Learn more and be inspired this Wednesday, September 14, 10 p.m. on IBC 13....Up Close!

MARISSA del Mar with James Marty Lim on 'Up Close and Personal.'

TransCo

Republic of the Philippines
National Transmission Corporation

Section I. Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Supply and Delivery of Various Information and Communication Technology Equipment
(Reference No.: PB050710-EL0068)

1. The *National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region (TRANSCO-HO)* through the *CY2005 Corporate Budget approved by the TRANSCO Board*, intends to apply the sum of Php 19,934,090.00 being the Total Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **Supply and Delivery of Various Information and Communication Technology Equipment.** Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The *TRANSCO-HO* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for *Various ICTs*. Delivery of the GOODS is required as listed below. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Interested Bidders, starting **September 10, 2005 to October 10, 2005 from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.** at the address below and upon payment of a non refundable fee in the amount of **Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00).** The method of payment will be CASH. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
5. The *TRANSCO-HO* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **September 29, 2005 at 2:00 P.M.** at same address below.
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **2:00 P.M. of October 11, 2005.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of *CASH* and in the amount equivalent to 1% of ABC or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
7. Bid opening shall be on **October 11, 2005 / 2:00 P.M.** at the *Admin Conference Rm. same address below.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
8. The *National Transmission Corporation* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region
Mr. Armando N. Ochoa, BAC Chairman
MMD Office, G/F TransCo Main Bldg.
Power Center, Quezon Ave. corner BIR Road
Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No. (632) 9812206 / Fax No. (632) 9228432
Website : www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) **ARMANDO N. OCHOA**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – September 10, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632) 920-6401 • (632) 920-6446
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NOTICE

Please get in touch with the Members Assistance Center, Social Security System (SSS), East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City or at any SSS office nearest your place of residence and file your death benefit claim within 90 days upon publication, if you are:

NAME OF BENEFICIARIES	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS	NAME OF SSS MEMBER	DATE OF DEMISE
1) Cristina Angeles	Jala-Jala, Rizal	Dominador D. Angeles SS#04-0295012-7	January 13, 2005
2) Daisy Dequito	Unknown	Emmanuel Aquino SS#02-1433310-7	March 2, 2004
3) Ester Basa	873 Agudo St., Mandaluyong City	Anselmo Capinlac SS#03-3740238-4	June 17, 2005
4) Rebecca Rosales	521 Malanday, Valenzuela City	Felix De Vega, Jr. SS#03-5874532-3	January 28, 2005
5) Carmelita Dominguez	322 Visayas Ave., Q.C.	Fernando Dominguez, Sr SS#03-1722567-5	February 20, 2004
6) Mariza, Lester & Bert	Unknown	Oscar G. Gogolin SS#33-1012933-5	January 29, 2005
7) Amado Hokson	Unknown	Ma. Aleta Q. Hokson SS#03-5972926-5	July 25, 2005
8) Salvacion Hondrada	Unknown	Romeo Hondrade, Jr. SS#03-2364304-7	July 16, 2005
9) Erlinda	Unknown	Jesus O. Macalimpag, Jr. SS#03-8850156-4	September 18, 2004
10) Justina Oasay	121 Samson Road, Caloocan City	Jack Nesperos SS#03-3748838-2	March 4, 2005
11) Rosalinda Deosia	1106 P. Rosales St., Sta. Ana, Pateros, Metro Manila	Raul Serrano SS#03-1937530-3	July 5, 2005
12) Florentina Tillada	Infanta, Quezon	Dominador Tillada SS#08-0095948-7	March 21, 2005

– Nothing Follows –

(PDI - September 10, 2005)

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- Individuals whose career plans include becoming a supervisor in the near future

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Rice supply and prices stable–NFA

NATIONAL FOOD Authority administrator Gregorio Y. Tan, Jr. said the country's rice inventory is at a comfortable level and market prices relatively stable even as the country is into the middle part of the traditional lean production period for this year. Tan expressed confidence that the country will be able to weather this period, considered critical as far as the supply of the basic staple is concerned. This is despite the increases in the price of petroleum products for the past several months. NFA rice is being sold to consumers through the agency's 26,112 accredited outlets inside and outside public markets nationwide, 2,493 Bigasan ni Gloria sa Palengke and 269 Tindahan ni Gloria rolling stores nationwide. Presently, the country has a rice inventory of 1.6 million metric tons (MT). This is sufficient to last for 54 days based on the national daily rice consumption of 29,000 MT.

NFA offers training

THE FOOD DEVELOPment Center (FDC) of the National Food Authority (NFA) will conduct a training course on "Testing of Flexible Packaging Materials for Food Use" on Sept. 27 to 30 at the FDC Compound, FTI Complex, Tagig City.

The training course will focus on test methods for evaluating the quality of flexible packaging materials. Emphasis will be on procedures that do not utilize sophisticated equipment but which nevertheless are internationally used.

The course fee if P8,350 per participant inclusive of a training manual, lunches, snacks and a shuttle service from Ayala Center, Makati to FDC and back. For further inquiries, please contact Amelia S. Bautista, FDC-NFA, FTI Complex, Tagig City at 838-4014; 838-4561; 838-4478 and Fax No. 838-4017 and 838-4692.

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OBITUARIES

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Our Beloved

Pilar Santos Obispo

of Binondo and Sta. Ana, Manila

passed away in Daly City, California
on September 4, 2005 at the age of 96.

Her children, Nick & Estela, Chito & Nering, Charito, and Nena & Ed, sister Siony, brother Tony and sister-in-law Coring, grandchildren, great grandchildren, relatives and friends request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains will be brought to Nacional Memorial Homes, Gregorio Araneta Avenue, Quezon City on Sunday, September 11, 2005.

Interment will be on Wednesday, September 14, 2005
at Himlayang Pilipino after 8:30 a.m. Mass.

So dearly loved...
So fondly remembered...
So truly missed...

In loving memory on his
First Death Anniversary

Dr. Jose "Pepot" R. San Gabriel

Who passed away unto eternal life on September 11, 2004.

Holy Masses will be offered on Sunday, September 11, 2005 at:

Our Lady of Sorrows Parish .... 6:00 AM and 6:00 PM
(F.B. Harrison, Pasay City)
Makati Medical Center Chapel .... 7:00 AM; 12:00 NN; 4:00 PM
(Amorsolo St., Makati City)
Santuario de San Antonio Parish .... 9:00 AM; 4:30 PM; 6:00 PM
(Forbes Park, Makati City)
Shrine of Jesus, The Way, The Truth and the Life..9:00 AM; 10:30 AM; 5:00 PM
(Central Business Park, Reclamation Area, Pasay City)

His wife **LOURDES**; children **JOEY & ANNA, BOBBY, MAILOU & HARRY, CHONA & CORNY, FRANCIS & ANNA**, request the readers and friends to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.
Always caring... **INQUIRER OBITUARIES**

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

- DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
- MESSAGE OF THANKS
- DEATH ANNIVERSARY
- REQUIEMS
- FREE OBIT DESIGN

Bobby,

At times I dream to see
and I truly wonder,
How happy we would be
if we were still together.

Living a life so simple,
Enjoying every laugh & giggle,
To be together, to hold each other,
Building memories to last forever.

GOD knows I long for your embrace,
but I know you are happy in HIS GRACE,
Remembering you, will always be,
True happiness for me.

Minnie

ROBERTO (Bobby) G. JONGCO

In Loving Memory

on the 15th Anniversary of **Roberto "Bobby" G. Jongco's** re-union with the Lord, the following masses will be offered today for his eternal rest.

Our Lady of the Abandoned Parish, ... 6:30 AM-7:30 AM
Sta. Ana, Manila 6:00 PM
Our Lady of Fatima Parish, ... 6:00 AM
Philamlife Village, Las Piñas .... 6:30 PM
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, ... 6:30 AM
13th Avenue, Cubao .... 6:00 PM
Don Bosco Parish, ... 6:30 AM, 7:30 AM
Pasay Road, Makati City .... 6:00 PM

Minnie, Rovi & Sheila, Tina & Nolan wish to thank our relatives and friends who have been praying for **Bobby's** peace in the garden of our Lord.

Pablo Martelino Barrios

of Kalibo Aklan

October 1, 1909 - September 8, 2005

Former Chief of Aklan Provincial Hospital,
Negros Oriental Provincial Hospital,
Negros Occidental Provincial Hospital
and Quirino Memorial Hospital

His loving wife Rosita, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the La Funeraria Paz,
Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

Interment will be on September 14, 2005 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the
Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Matthew 10:39

Our Dearly Beloved Mother

JULITA CHING DE GUZMAN

of Calvario, Meycauayan, Bulacan and Valenzuela City
peacefully joined our Lord on September 6, 2005 at the age of 68.

Her loving husband, Justiniano; children Marinor and Dennis ; together with her brothers and sisters, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Gen. Pacheco St., Calvario, Meycauayan, Bulacan.

Interment will be on Sunday, Sept. 11, 2005 at the Meycauayan Memorial Park – Zamora, after the 3:00 pm Mass at the St. Francis of Assisi Church, Meycauayan, Bulacan.

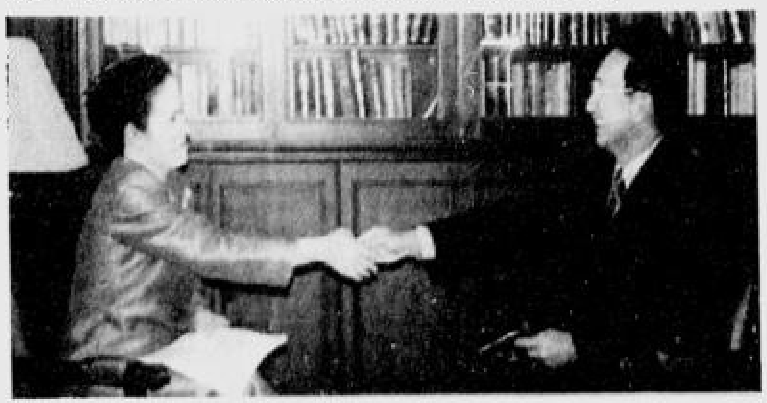
CLASSIFIEDS

PPTA's annual confab on Sept. 10-11

THE PHILIPPINE PHYSCIAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION, INC. (PTA) WILL hold its annual convention on Sept. 10-11 at the SGV Conference Hall, Asian Institute of Management Conference Center, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City. Open to all members and non-members of PPTA, students of Physical Therapy and other professionals whose main concern are health and wellness, the convention has for its theme "The Filipino Therapist" On the Road to Wellness." The convention will feature four plenary sessions with an overview of current health demographics that affect the Physical Therapy Profession, the role of Physical Therapists in wellness and evaluation and exercise prescription of fitness and health; interactive classes as workshop sessions with backgorund on how each type of exercise can contribute to fitness, outcome measures that coud be used to evaluate the level of fitness, indications, prescribing the exercise to clients, and current evidence on the effects of exercise. Interested parties may call The 2005 PPTA National Convention Secretariat, Tel. Nos. 521-8450 loc. 2425, 927-3936, Mobile Nos. 0916-5615061, email: pptaconvention2005@yahoo.com

Public Defender to guest on 'Iyo ang Katarungan'

CHIEF PUBLIC ATTORNEY PERCIDA RUEDA-ACOSTA, RECIPIENT OF THE "Outstanding Presidential Lingkod Bayan Award 2004", will be featured guest on the TV talk show "Iyo ang Katarungan". The discussion will include the mandate, jurisdiction and services of the Public Attorney's Office (PAO) as they are aligned to the Action Program for Judicial Reforms (APJR) initiated by Chief Justice Hilario Davide, JR. Watch and hear these on "Iyo ang Katarungan" hosted by Justice Presbi Velasco on Sept.11, 10 p.m. on IBC 13.



PUBLIC Defender Chief of Public Attorney Percida Rueda-Acosta on 'Iyo ang Katarungan with Justice Pres Velasco, Jr.'

LIVELIHOOD ASSISTANCE CHEQUE FOR KASIBULAN RESETTLEMENT, CABUYAO, LAGUNA

Vice-president and HUDCC chair "Kabayan" Noli de Castro hands over a cheque for livelihood assistance to one of the awardees of Kasibulan Ville project in Cabuyao, Laguna, an identified resettlement site for the affected families of Southrail Development Project. Looking on are NHA general manager Federico Laza and Mayor Nila Aguillo of Cabuyao, Laguna. To date, some 60 families have been awarded lots in the project.

CALL CENTER CONFERENCE AND EXPO 2005

Shown from left: Renato Yap (president and CEO, Contact Point); Kenneth Tam and Joyce Kwok (GN Netcom), Gerry Lim (president, Sterling Global), Raffy David (director, Pilipinas TeleServ); Bong Borja (president, People Support); Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr.; David Watson; Benedict Hernandez (general manager - eTelecare) and Jojo Uligan (executive director of CCAP).

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- State-of-the Art Data Mining: Drowning in Data but Starving for Knowledge?
- Data Warehouses: To Build or to Buy?
- Segmentation Strategies that Deliver Results - Case Study
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- Relationship Marketing in the Digital Age... The Power of Email
- New Technologies and How they Affect Direct Marketers - IM, Blogs, RSS and Wikis
- Internet & Web Advertising
BRAND MARKETING
- Building Your Brand... One Customer at a Time
- Rewards Programs Turned Inside Out
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- Unlock the Power of Direct Marketing
- Merging Inbound and Outbound Customer Contact Management for Effective CRM
- Turning Contacts into Customers
FINANCIAL SERVICES
- Best Practices for Unlocking Customer Profitability via Cross-Channel Cross-Sell
- Anytime, Anyplace, Anywhere - the New World of 24/7/365
- Bricks and Clicks Expressing the Brand on the Real and Virtual Turf
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- Smartly Outsource Your DM Fulfillment... Focus More on Your Core Business
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- Next Gen Service: Transforming Your Call Center into a Customer Interaction Hub
- The New Generation of Outsourced Teleservices Centers
- Telephone Marketing. A Practical Guide
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- Successful Relationship Marketing in the Pharmaceutical Industry
- Leverage the Key Drivers of Ethical Marketing Today: Direct-to-Consumer and Direct-to-Physician
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- **IDD Top 5** offers US$0.20 IDD rate per minute for every call made only to the US (Mainland)*, China, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Taiwan.
  **applies only to IDD calls to the US Mainland. IDD Calls to Hawaii, Alaska, US Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico are not included in this promo offer.*
- Calls outside the 5 destinations mentioned above will be charged the regular applicable IDD rate.
- Sun Cellular will use the Peso equivalent of the US$0.20 IDD rate per minute following the NTC prescribed peso-dollar exchange rate issued at the beginning of the transaction month.

For POSTPAID subscribers only

- For postpaid subscribers, all calls made to the five destinations will be automatically charged the US$0.20 per minute rate starting on the 1st minute of the call and will be reflected in the Statement of Account (SOA) during the promo duration.

For PREPAID subscribers only

- **IDD Top 5** load credit balance will be reflected in minutes. A Php100.00 **IDD Top 5** load will provide approximately nine (9) minutes of IDD credit (subject to prescribed FOREX rate) with a validity period of seven (7) days starting from the day you load it to your prepaid account.
- If you use up your **IDD Top 5** load credit during a call, the call will be automatically terminated even if you have regular load in your account. If you have sufficient regular load and wish to continue your IDD call, you may dial again. However, the regular rates per minute will apply.
- Your **IDD Top 5** load cannot be converted to any other Sun Cellular load (regular or other reload variants). It cannot be used for calls other than the **IDD Top 5** destinations and for other voice and SMS transactions.
- Any unused/remaining **IDD Top 5** load credit in your prepaid account at the end of the promo period will remain valid and may still be used until fully consumed or until the lapse of the seven (7) day validity period, whichever comes first.
- After the promo period, any **IDD Top 5** call card which has not been loaded into an account will automatically be converted to Php 100 worth of **24/7 Call and Text Unlimited** reload, with the corresponding seven (7) day validity period from date of loading.
- Postpaid and prepaid subscribers may purchase **IDD Top 5** load for their relatives, friends and loved ones with Sun Cellular prepaid subscription by doing any of the following transactions:

1. **Via SMS**
   Text Top5 <space> 100 and send to 255
2. **Via The Mall**
   Enter The Mall. Follow the menu path:
   a. **For postpaid:** The Mall->Mall Assistant->My Account->Postpaid->BUY IDD->Top5 100
   b. **For prepaid:** The Mall->Mall Assistant->My Account->Prepaid->BUY IDD->Top5 100

Note: For postpaid subscriber purchases via SMS or The Mall, IDD Top 5 load will be charged separately from the Monthly Service Fee. Prepaid subscriber purchases will be automatically deducted from the regular load in your account.

After your request has been processed via SMS or The Mall, you will receive a text message containing the number series *220# followed by a 14-digit number string and the # sign. Once you receive this number string, you may send it to a prepaid subscriber via SMS or by calling. The recipient should:

- Key in *220# followed by the 14-digit number string then the # sign (Ensure that there are no spaces between characters)
- Press **SEND**
- A text message will display the updated load balance.

Per DTI-NCR Permit no. 4895 Series of 2005.

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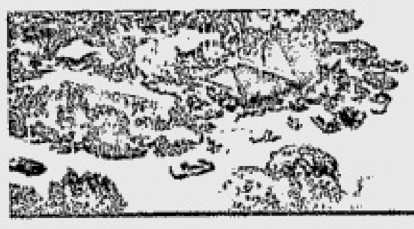
Editor Cesar D. Mangawang



PROPERTY

How firms can 'really' reduce energy use

By Charles E. Buban

TURNING OFF COMPUTERS and other equipment that's not being used or when no shifts are running may help an organization save on electricity and money.

But that may not be enough according to a group of electrical engineers who are doing electrical cost reduction performance contracting to various commercial, institutional and industrial firms nationwide.

According to Davies Energy Systems Inc. (DES), there are a lot of other things that can be done to dramatically improve an organization's operating efficiency.

"We focus on the facility's electrical distribution system. This means we do electrical system improvements and adjustments, if necessary, add power conditioning equipment, repair electrical terminations, and do rounds of maintenance and upgrade work to the lighting system," reveals DES president Shrikanth Bhat.

Electrical engineers

Bhat says DES is driven by the belief that sustained energy management solutions are part of any organization's controllable budgetary expenditure.

According to him, reduction in energy consumption will not only result in significant cost savings for the organization, it will also help conserve valuable resources that are required for power generation, such as petroleum products, coal or natural gas.

"Efficient use of fuel and electricity will help combat adverse effects of relentless increase in world oil prices on the local economy and at the same time save the environment since the facility produces less waste and pollution," reveals Bhat.

He reports that the energy management projects they already have implemented in various establishments have achieved, on average, cost savings of 5 to 15 percent.

Verifying success

"To validate if we are successful, there is the International Performance Measurement and Verification Protocol, which is a global standard that measures and verifies energy and water savings (in retrofits and new construction) resulting from the implementation of an energy-efficiency program. The IPMVP is also used to monitor indoor environmental quality, and quantify emissions reductions," reveals DES vice president John Alcordo.

This measurement and verification standard developed in the United States provides unbiased, technically rigorous and cost-effective methods to measure and verify energy savings estimates that form the basis of the contract between DES and its clients.

Indeed, a sea change in attitude is beginning to take place in a growing number of organizations nationwide with regard to their energy consumption.

"Energy cost, previously taken for granted, has now begun to attract serious attention as these organizations now feel the impact of rising oil prices, and recognize the dangers of ignoring the economic and social effects of non-environment-conscious policies in offices," says Alcordo.

Widely used

While the concept of energy performance contracting has been widely used in the United States and Europe for decades, it is only just beginning to surface as a relatively new approach to energy saving in the Philippines or even in other parts of the region.

"Failure of traditional energy management techniques (to achieve greater levels of efficiency) has persuaded companies both here and in the region to try energy performance contracting," notes Alcordo

A typical DES project starts with a walkthrough of the facility. Once contracted, a DES representative will now prepare a detailed report that would include the organization's electrical billing costs and how those costs are created by the different types of electrical loads.

Doing a report

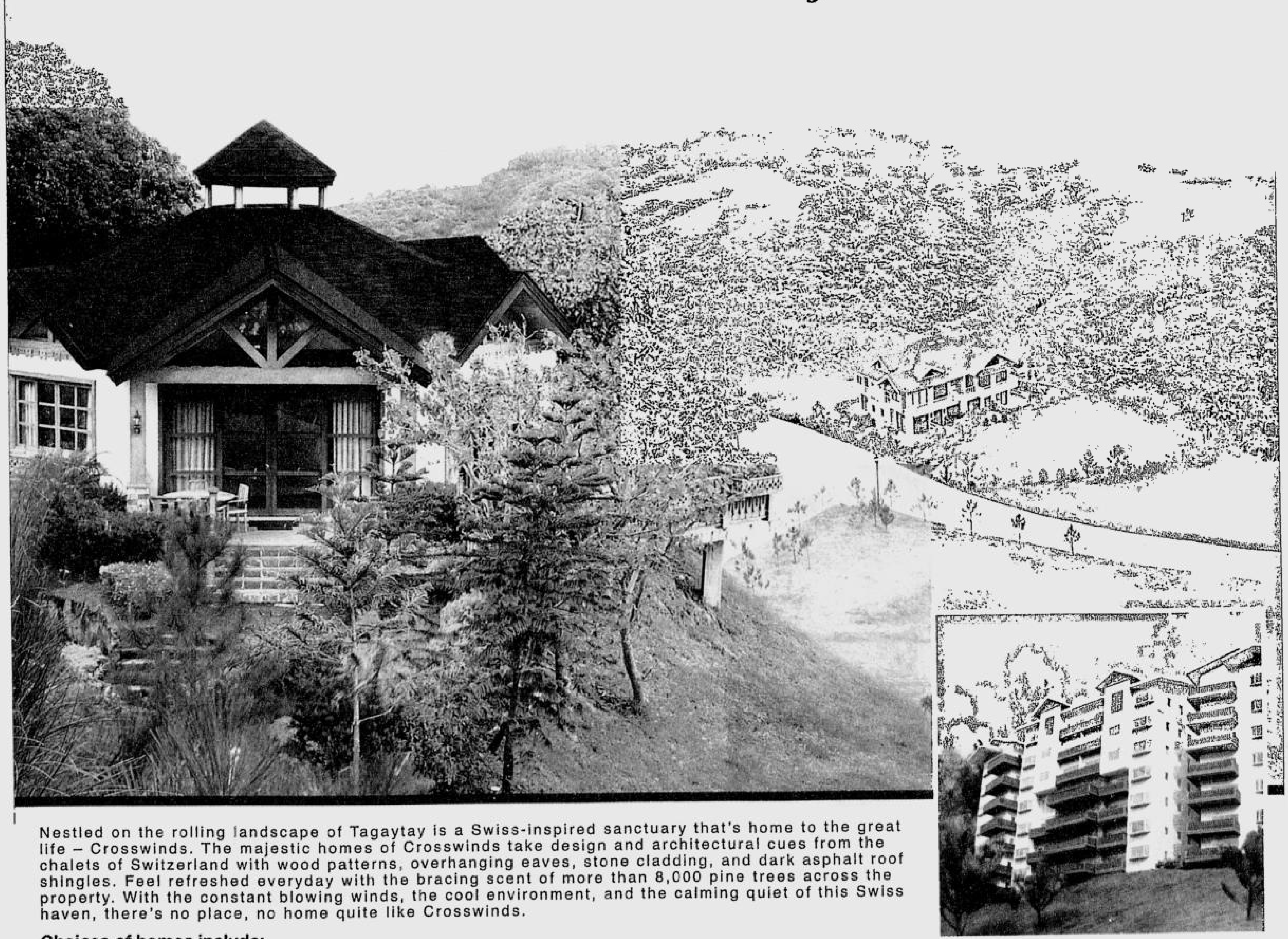
"We will also do a report on the overall connected electrical load by type of equipment, create infrared thermograph scans of electrical distribution panels and make a comparison of measurements to global standards, as well as perform light meter readings of all areas in the facility and comparing this to lighting standards," enumerates Alcordo.

Afterward, DES is now ready to make a specific statement of the electrical work recommended and the financial costs involved in performing such task.

Bhat assures that firms that have invested in their cost-effective and energy-efficient products and services have lowered their electric bills and enhanced their corporate profitability.

Says Bhat: "Indeed, the success of these companies has shown others that there need be no conflict between what is good for business and good for the environment."

Nestled In Scenic Tagaytay:
A Swiss Sanctuary



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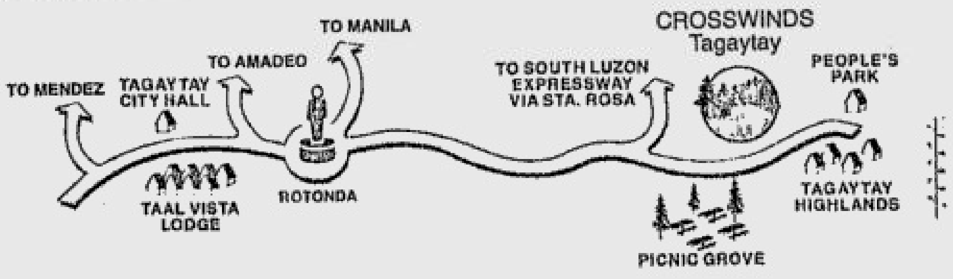


Bamboo, the green alternative

GREEN ARCHITRENDS

Amado de Jesus

CAN YOU NAME A MATERIAL that rivals steel in strength, is more sturdy than concrete, and in 12 months grows as tall as a tree? The answer is bamboo.

Bamboo is not a tree. It belongs to a subfamily of the perennial grasses. It is a fast-growing, renewable resource, and its stems can be harvested several times from the same plant. Bamboo clumps will grow new shoots for as long as 75 years. There are several species of bamboo used in both indoor and outdoor construction.

In this country, most of our bamboo is not grown and harvested efficiently. In many cases, bamboo is found only in distant rural areas. Many people consider bamboo as a building material that is suitable only for temporary and flimsy structures. This is the major reason there is low demand for bamboo.

This is not the case in many countries. Today, people are rediscovering bamboo. Not only is it cheap, it is also versatile and esthetically appealing. Bamboo is grown and harvested widely to build houses and other structures.

Some of the countries that manage sustainable bamboo forests successfully are Vietnam, Indonesia, Hawaii, Australia, China and Thailand. These countries have come to realize the vast potential benefits of bamboo, which is aptly nicknamed the "miracle plant."

Qualities of bamboo

Bamboo is an environment-friendly alternative to wood for construction. It is an extremely fast-growing plant. While it takes 10 to 20 years for most woods to be harvested, bamboo takes only three to five years.

Bamboo is one of the strongest woody plants on our planet. It has more than 1,500 species thriving in varied terrain from sea level to 12,000 feet on every continent except the polar regions. Some species grow at two inches per hour while some grow one and a half meters a day.

Harvesting does not kill the bamboo plant; it creates no erosion problem. Bamboo can thrive even in soil damaged by erosion and has been effectively used for erosion control.

Bamboo fibers are about 10 times as strong as the wood fibers used today in construction. It has a tensile strength superior to mild steel (15,000 pounds per square inch). This means that smaller and lighter weight types of bamboo can be used in place of wood products. Using bamboo in construction can mean a lot of savings in material used and transported.

Environmental protection

Bamboo is effective in reforestation of degraded lands and releases 35 percent more oxygen than trees. It reduces light intensity and protects against ultraviolet rays.

With its root system, bamboo is effective for watershed protection, especially along riverbanks and in places prone to earthquakes and mud slides. It greatly reduces rainwater runoff, prevents soil erosion and absorbs twice the amount of water as other trees. Rainwater runoff is rainwater not fully absorbed by the soil, thus resulting in floods.

A renewable resource

Bamboo has many practical applications. "Ply boo" is now widely used for flooring and paneling. Its pulp is used for paper-making. It acts as a raw material for construction and reinforcement for concrete beams. It can also be used as briquettes (compressed coal-dust) for fuel.

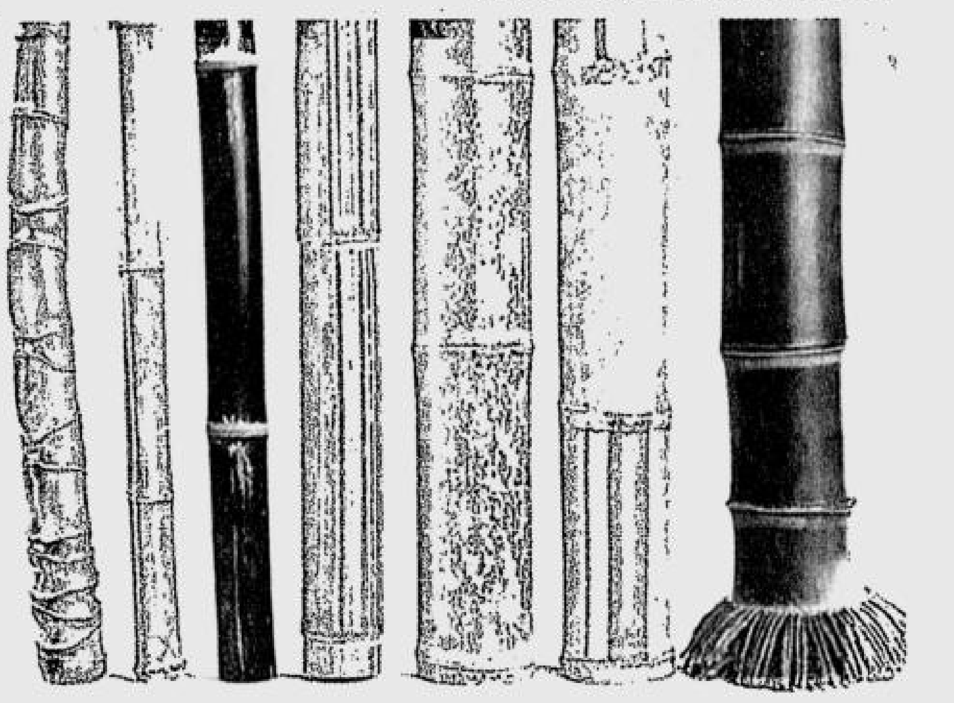
New engineered applications include lumber, veneer, strand and particle boards, plywood and other laminates, and emergent technologies of high strength bio-composites.

Related industries

Today there are over two billion people who are benefiting from bamboo-related industries. Experts in the field claim that there is a three- to five-year payback period for a new bamboo plantation against 8 to 10 years for rattan.

India and China, with 15 million hectares of bamboo reserves collectively, are focusing their attention on the economic benefits of bamboo and its protection.

- **Food.** Millions of people worldwide derive nutrition from bamboo shoots. The Japanese use the pulverized bamboo skin with its antioxidant properties to prevent bacterial growth and it is used as a natural food preservative. Bamboo litter is used as fodder for animals and fish food.
- **An ancient medicine.** For centuries, bamboo has been used in Chinese herbal medicine. It has been known to treat asthma and coughs. Black bamboo root is also used to treat kidney disease. It has also been known to treat venereal disease, cancer, fever and prickly heat. Today's researchers cite the bamboo's potential in the medical field.
- **Bamboo preservation.** Research institutes have developed environmentally safe "green" bamboo treatment and preservation techniques to prevent attack from the "powder postbeetle," the most common natural enemy of bamboo.



BAMBOO is one of the most important nature's substitutes for the endangered rainforest hardwoods. It is cheap, versatile and esthetically appealing. Bamboo is grown and harvested widely to build houses and other structures.

ILLUSTRATION PHOTO BY WETTERWALD M.E

The challenge

Perhaps now is the right time to take another look at bamboo, a plant that is greatly underutilized. Bamboo is a green building material and is classified as a rapidly renewable material, which is distinguished from wood by the shorter harvest rotation—typically less than 10 years. Bamboo is biodegradable and because sunlight is generally the primary energy input, it is less energy-intensive to produce. Bamboo is one of the most sustainable raw building materials today.

New ideas and research on the production and many uses of bamboo continue to create positive economic development and impact on new industries and products.

Developing the local bamboo industry can contribute to a reduction in construction costs. It can also support indigenous construction skills, thus providing jobs for many people. And finally, it will attract investment to continue the development in the bamboo industry.

For comments or inquiries, e-mail amadodejesus@gmail.com.

MULTIFUNCTION furniture, like a coffee table that morphs into a play table, is ideal for condo units.

IN SMALL spaces, furniture with low backs and made of light materials maintain the illusion of space.

Interior designing for compact condo units

BECAUSE OF THE INDEPENDENCE AND flexibility it affords, condominium living in an accessible city location has definitely become an attractive option for the younger generation of homeowners.

It means the freedom to be on your own as well as to indulge in an active lifestyle that thrives on the many activities offered by the city, according to Isabel Berenguer-Asuncion, interior design consultant of Laguna Properties Holdings Inc.'s One Aeropolis in Sucat, Parañaque. Catering to young urban professionals living on their own or starting a family, One Aeropolis units priced from P1 to P2.4 million are selling briskly.

Trained in Hong Kong where condominium living is the only option for most homeowners, Asuncion comments that careful planning and ingenuity have made creating a home in a limited city space a viable alternative. The model unit she designed for One Aeropolis clearly illustrates this.

Design guidelines

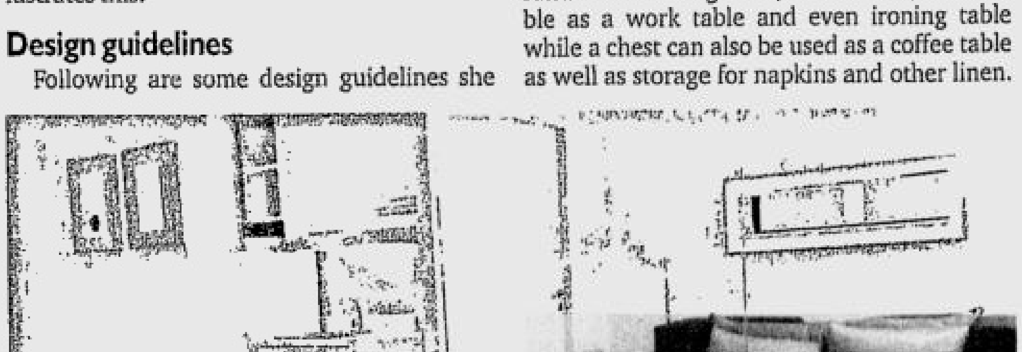
Following are some design guidelines she shares with prospective condominium owners:

- **Go rectangular and regular.** As a rule, rectangular spaces are easier to furnish than square or irregularly shaped floor areas. Asuncion thus advises homeowners to choose units with conventional spaces. Units with squarish floor plans tend to waste too much space in the middle while units with curvy walls will certainly pose design challenges. An added bonus are units with ceilings as high as those in One Aeropolis. High ceilings, she explains, instantly create a feeling of spaciousness and graciousness.
- **Up against the walls.** Asuncion tends to put furniture against the walls. When you put your focal points against the walls, you draw out the eye of anyone walking into the room and make him believe a room is more spacious than it is, she says.
- **Pieces that morph.** Use multifunctional furniture. A dining table, for instance, can double as a work table and even ironing table while a chest can also be used as a coffee table as well as storage for napkins and other linen. Multifunctional pieces mean less clutter and more flexibility. "Choose pieces that can easily morph," she says with a smile.
- **Window/ cabinet treatments.** Owners of studio units ought to go for window treatments in plain colors and very little pattern. The idea is to make the windows blend with the walls to maintain the illusion of spaciousness, Asuncion emphasizes. You want to avoid cutting up spaces with window treatments that call attention to themselves, e.g. too many ruffles and draping or fabrics with too many shades and contrasts.

Asuncion comments that the same rule applies for cabinets. You want them to blend in with the walls so paint them in a color that will easily blend with the former.

- **Choose low-backs.** Go for low-back dining chairs and dining tables that are not made of solid material. Such pieces allow the eye of the viewer to look past the furniture to the end of the room. In contrast, high-back chairs and heavy tables will stop the eye and make a space seem cramped.

Berenguer also advises condo owners to use mirrors extensively. In the One Aeropolis studio units which are available for viewing, a floor-to-ceiling mirror covers the entire wall facing the sofa bed. Mirrors have a way of doubling up space.



A HUGE mirror can seemingly double the space of a 20-square-meter studio.

Look at entire dev't

She also enjoins prospective condo owners to look at the entire development. Projects with atriums and generous open spaces as well as pleasant views are definitely preferable. Homeowners must realize that they will likewise need to relate to the general environment of the condominium project, she says. Within a unit and outside of it, the quality of living is very much determined by the quality of planning in general.

Those interested may view the One Aeropolis model units at Dr. A. Santos Avenue (formerly Sucat Road) in Parañaque or call 864-5744 or 788-0951 for more details.

OFW money boosts property sector in first half

BUOYED BY STRONG DEMAND for new housing units in the first half of the year, the property sector is expected to post an 8 percent growth in the whole of 2005 despite the rising cost of construction materials, a major property developer said.

Victor H. Manarang, president and CEO of One Asia Development Corp., said increased dollar remittances from overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) boosted the demand for housing units, enabling the property sector to expand by 9 percent in the first six months of the year.

He predicted that while the sector would not grow as fast in the second half given the high oil prices that dampen the demand and the high cost of materials, it would still post an impressive 8 percent growth in 2005.

OFW remittances

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has reported that OFW remittances hit US$4.9 billion (P274 billion) in the January-June period, or up by 21 percent from only US$4 billion recorded a year ago.

Manarang said that as OFW remittances and Filipino migrants' money pour into the country, a substantial portion of those funds are invested in properties.

"OFWs and their relatives actually account for as much as 40 percent of the new buyers of housing units, while the remaining 60 percent are the Philippine-based workers and self-employed individuals," he said.

"Notably, the big contribution of the growth still comes from lower- to middle-income segments of the market," he added.

Slower growth

However, Manarang said the second half of the year may see a slower growth in the property sector, because of political and economic pressures that make buyers hesitate to free their money.

"The instability in the political landscape definitely has an effect on the local market. Prospective buyers hold on to their money as they adopt a wait-and-see attitude," he said.

Manarang said economic pressures such as the excessive prices of crude oil in the world market, which pushed the cost of commodities in the country, also influence the buying attitude of the Filipinos.

Another constraint is the high cost of construction materials, which limits the flexibility of developers in pricing their housing projects.

"Developers may have to increase their prices to recoup their increased investments resulting from the rising costs of cement and steel and remain in good shape for future development once prices of materials return to normal," he said.

Demand

However, Manarang said that even with the adjustment in pricing of housing projects, demand from lower- to middle-income segments of the market is not expected to substantially change, because the development of such projects is driven by need.

"So long as there is an open window for credit facilities through Pag-Ibig and private banks, the lower- to mid-income projects will have continuous growth trend," he said.

Established in July 2000, One Asia Development Corp. is a key player in property market offering housing products for all segments. Its product mix include The Celebrity Place in Quezon City, which is intended for upscale market; Verdant Heights in Parañaque for upper mid; and Westridge Residences & Summer Pointe Country Homes in Cavite for low- to middle-income groups.

AddMix making life easier for hardworking engineers

ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS AND builders are always in search of new ways of doing things for them to be able to meet deadlines without sacrificing quality. More and more products are coming out of the market but only a few will find favor with them. Quality, durability, strength and such factors as time and cost-efficiency are what makes new products click with these building experts.

Global Brands hit the bulls-eye with its AddMix products. These products come in miniature packages but they have brought about big changes in the construction industry. This breakthrough product is a range of performance admixtures in powder form added and mixed to enhance specific properties of concrete.

Remarkable qualities

The remarkable qualities of AddMix have so impressed the Quality Assurance and Quality Control head of DDT Konstract, engineer Rene Raagas who oversees the World Health Organization's Western Pacific Region Office in Manila.

"AddMix gives us twice the strength of ordinary cement mixes," Raagas says with the assurance of added durability and strength of the cement, it further decreases the chance of rework for any of the structures. It also allows early setting of the cement mix which drastically cuts down our project timeframe by as much as 25 percent. Moreover, it provides about 35 percent savings in materials cost, he adds. Needless to say, AddMix provides a lot of benefits for engineers who are under a lot of stress during the construction period.

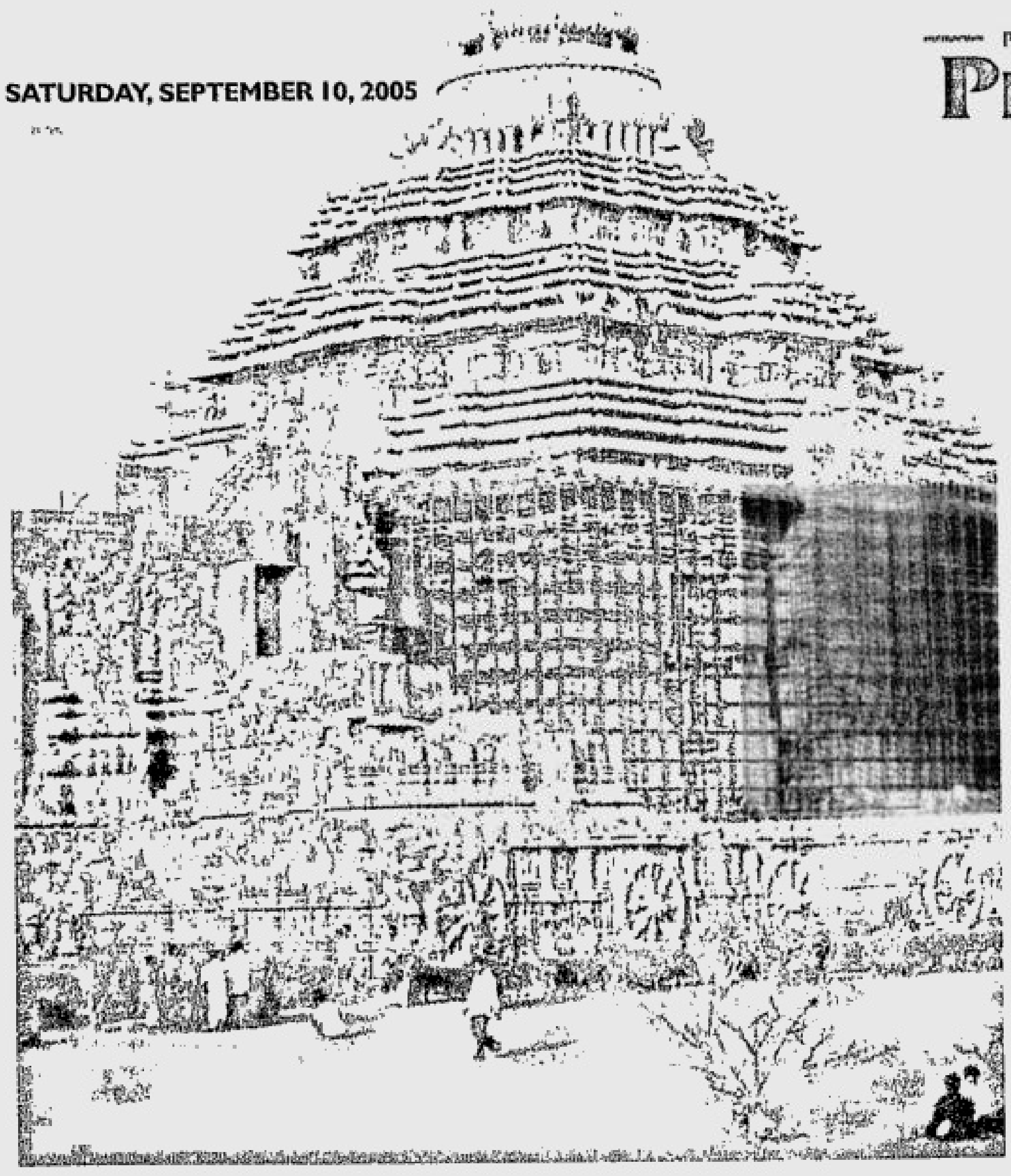
4 variants

Raagas uses all of AddMix's four variants. The first variant is AddMix Plus. The volume expander for mortars used for concrete hollow blocks. The second variant is AddMix Easy, the plaster mortar enhancer. It is the secret to a better and more economical plaster.

Third in the AddMix range is the AddMix Ultra. The fortifier and accelerator for concrete poured in structural elements. Structural masses such as beams, columns and some flooring require specified concrete or cement mix strengths.

The fourth AddMix variant is the AddMix Tilebond. It is used for economical tile-setting mortars. AddMix Tilebond also contains air-entraining agents but its real strength lies in its "Triple Bonding Agent." The triple bonding agents in Tilebond is responsible for the superior adhesion and faster setting and curing results obtained from tile-setting mortars mixed with it.

Raagas believes in the product 100 percent and will continue using it with other projects. For engineers like Raagas, AddMix is seen as the partner to quality concrete. Not only does it enhance strength and durability, it is also time and cost-efficient and hence, makes life easier for builders of homes and buildings and other infrastructures.



Temple of the Sun

AMAZING STRUCTURES

"HERE THE LANGUAGE OF stone surpasses the language of man." So wrote poet Rabindranath Tagore of the Sun Temple at Konarak, a small town in Orissa, India.

One of India's most famous and important Brahman sanctuaries, the temple was built in the 13th century by King Naramsimhadeva in dedication to the sun god Surya. It represents the deity's chariot.

The temple, which is also known as the Black Pagoda, was built using black granite.

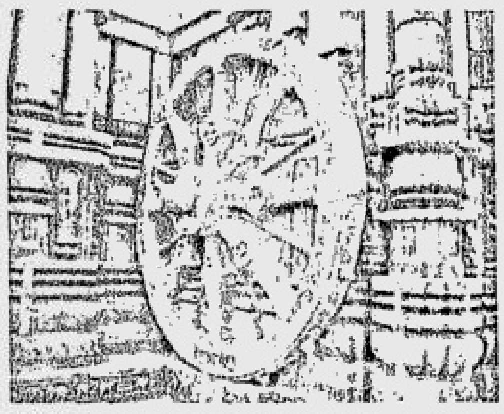
It is heavily decorated with stone carvings and surrounded with 24 wheels at its base. Each wheel measures about 10 feet in diameter and has a set of spokes and symbolic, elaborate designs. Also around the base of the temple and up its walls and roof are carvings which suggest erotic images.

The colossal structure now lies partly in ruins and a number of its sculptures are kept in the Sun Temple Museum. The Sun Temple of Konarak is included in Unesco's world heritage list.

Dianne M. Villafuerte

GUARDING the temple's entrance are two elephant-crushing lions.

A LOOK at the Sun Temple may make one think that it is being held up by its numerous carvings like the one above.



ONE of the 24 intricately designed wheels which surround the base of the temple.

Lecture on financing, analyzing, math of realty investment

HOW DO WE FINANCE AND ANALYZE proposed real estate investments? What is the appropriate interest rate? Where do we source capital? How good is the proposed investment? What is the return? Is it acceptable? What are the risks? Are they manageable? These are only some of the most frequently asked questions by prospective investors and developers of real property that will be answered as Urban Institute of Real Estate conducts a lecture on Fundamentals of Real Estate Finance and Investment Analysis on Sept. 12, from 1:30 to 6 p.m. at the second floor, Max's Restaurant, Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati City.

The lecture will be followed by a seminar on the Mathematics Side of Real Estate Investment on Sept. 14, same time and venue.

Urban is also conducting the following seminars which can be attended separately, on the same time and venue: Sept. 19—Installment sales: All you need to know; Sept. 21—Howtos of real property valuation; Sept. 26—Legal aspect of sale, mortgage and lease with contract documentation and registration; Sept. 28—Taxation aspects of real estate transactions and real property assessment.

For other details or advance registration, Urban Institute may be reached at 681-0928 or 0916-4269174 or by e-mail at urbanet@pacific.net.ph.

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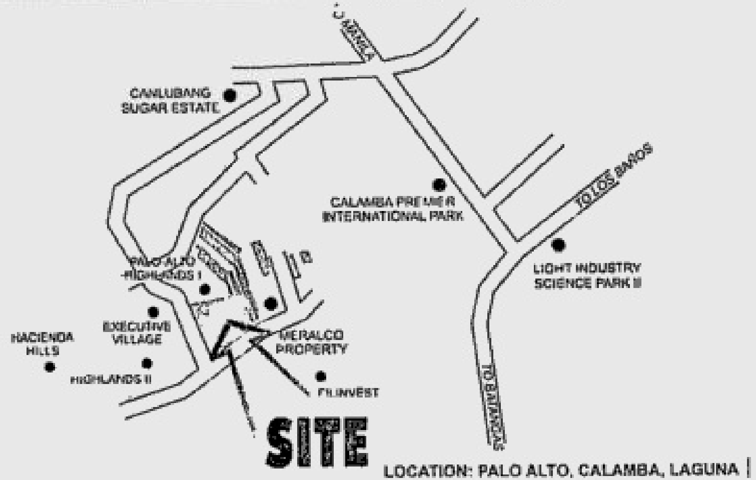

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City life secure, convenient at Bonifacio Ridge

ISA Esquivel's elegant dining area is a spot where she can reflect and enjoy the stunning view from the large living room window across the unit.

ISA found it easy to customize her Bonifacio Ridge unit. She enjoys watching people and the scenic cityscape from her window.

ISA ESQUIVEL MOVED INTO her Bonifacio Ridge condo unit just last Holy Week. She found that it was easy to adapt to her new 15th floor home because she'd visited the high-end property at the Fort many times before. She has been looking forward to living at the upscale condominium early on, and has even met up with the building's administrator and security personnel several times before actually moving in.

She enthused, "I appreciate the fact that it was really a good move for me to live here because of my lifestyle. When you choose a place to live, you really have to consider that, because if you travel a lot, you'll just be leaving your home. It was also easy for me to adjust because I lived in a townhouse before, but it's not as secure as living in a flat or a condominium."

Security measures

The exemplary security measures provided by Bonifacio Ridge are highly commendable, which have kept her and other unit owners worry-free. "I really appreciate our security personnel. They are very courteous and very helpful. My visitors and house guests notice it too. They're different; they're very respectful," said Isa.

The very busy Isa's freight-forwarding business requires her to personally meet her agents and attend meetings overseas. She is confident that her new home allows her extra mobility because of its location.

Said Isa: "The Fort has evolved a lot from the time it was conceptualized. I moved here because of its proximity to my office near the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and its accessibility to Makati, Mandaluyong and Manila. At this point, I still prefer city life without much of the hassle. The roads are really wide here, and traffic officers really enforce regulations."

Customizing

She revealed that customizing her place was also easy, as she's a quick decision maker. She put up wallpaper with bamboo and bird prints in the dining room, and balanced the charming design with a matching maroon paint for the hall leading to her den and bedrooms. Her furniture set is a mix of antiques and contemporary pieces that personalizes her living room and den. "I knew that I wouldn't be altering a lot. That was a big consideration for me. It's now a reflection of who I am, where I've been, my personal tastes and my lifestyle," said Isa.

Inviting relatives and friends over has been enjoyable for her, and they all give her the same favorable feedback. She said, "They find the place very beautiful. I had a guest a month ago from Indonesia. She loves it here! She told me it looks easy to customize, and that an interior designer really isn't needed."

Conveniences

Isa also enjoys doing different things whenever she's home: "I can cook for myself. But there are times when I just want to eat out. There are a lot of restaurants in the area. We have coffee houses, and Italian, Chinese and Indian restaurants nearby. I also enjoy watching people; the view is great from here. On a clear day, the skyline is very, very nice. I also go brisk-walking or jogging. No vehicles are allowed early in the morning, so you can really have a good exercise. I find these things very convenient."

She's pleased that these conveniences allow her to enjoy her free time more, and is happy that adapting to the new environment has been effortless: "I can enjoy city living sans the hassles. When you think of the location, the address you're having, and if you know that the property will be managed and maintained by Ayala Land, then it becomes well worth it. They'll make sure it lives up to your expectations and exceed them."

Ayala Land Inc. is the country's leading real estate developer. Its properties are designed with an unwavering commitment to quality and service, which continues to surpass the expectations of the company's diverse market. Bonifacio Ridge is a prime residential condominium within the city that offers first-rate amenities and recreational facilities that meet the diverse lifestyles of its tenants. To know more about Bonifacio Ridge, call 728-7000, e-mail ayala-sales@ayalaland.com.ph or visit www.ayalaland.com.ph.

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Leading high-rise developer tries hand at masterplanning community

By Charles E. Buban

CANYON RANCH IS A TRULY unique development. It combines an unparalleled environment of country life with all the comforts of modern living. Resplendent with lush greenery, it is no more than a stone's throw away from the first truly world-class racetrack development in the country, the San Lazaro Leisure Park.

"Canyon Ranch is truly a place one would have always dreamed of and wanted to come home to," promises Jose Marco Antonio, managing director of Century Communities Corp., the property's developer and exclusive marketing manager.

Perched on the foothills of Carmona, Cavite, the 17-hectare Canyon Ranch offers its residents an oasis barely 25 minutes (passing four exits of the South Luzon Expressway) from Makati City.

40% to greenery

According to Antonio, the property will only use 60 percent of its land area, leaving the rest for tree-lined streets, rolling hills, open spaces and community parks.

"Living here means open views, cool breezes (thanks to the property's elevated and hilly topography) and a tranquility rare to find in Metro Manila," describes Antonio.

Gracious country living at Canyon Ranch is reflected in the classic California-style homes in varying floor layouts and lot sizes.

Homes at Canyon Ranch range from three to five bedrooms with floor areas from 80 to 280 square meters and whose prices range from P3.2 to P13 million. There are also duplex homes available at the property's Canyon Hills where units go for as low as P1.6 million.

Haven of luxury, security

"Each home is promised to be a haven of luxury and security for all family members as each unit is to be finished to the highest possible standards of quality," assures Antonio.

Each residence will have a view deck that will give unobstructed views over the Manila Jockey Club's world-class twin oval race horse track (reminiscent of posh properties in New York where residents enjoy a view of the prestigious Belmont Park Racetrack) and the rugged natural beauty of the surrounding mountains of Mt. Makiling and Antipolo as well as view of the Laguna de Bay.

Also serving the needs of about 700 homes rising at Canyon Ranch is The Village Center, a commercial multiplex that will house numerous dining, retail and specialty establishments.

"There will also be a clubhouse featuring a wide range of indoor and outdoor amenities for exclusive use of the residents. Also included in the plan are restaurants and bars, gaming and entertainment areas, an equestrian school and a riding academy," enumerates Antonio.

Community goes high-tech

Canyon Ranch also goes high tech as it will offer high-speed Wi-Fi (wireless fidelity) Internet access services within the community.

"I believe we are the first to offer this fea-

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This over 15-hectare gated community offers Italian-themed houses with two and three distinctive bedroom floor plans. Spacious, elegant and functional, selected homes feature added family-centered rooms such as the family area and lanai.

And if you're out looking for fun, it is good to know that Fortezza is complete with first-class amenities and verdant landscape.

Fortezza is opening more doors with its expansion. So reward yourself with luxury made affordable and make Fortezza your new home.

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Via Calamba, take the **National Road** going to Cabuyao passing Mayapa Junction. Upon reaching Pulo (w/ Hardiflex billboard) turn left. Go straight till Pulo Diezmo Diversion Road and you will see Fortezza on the left.

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Victorianne's Painted Ladies

WHILE PURCHASING A HOME IS A serious business, living in one need not be so. A brief walk along Brittany Corp.'s Victorianne brings back childhood memories of dollhouses come to life and ready for a family to call it home.

The picture postcard street is home to a row of Neo-Victorian houses reminiscent of San Francisco's Painted Ladies. Located south of Manila within La Posada in Brittany Bay, it is a mere 15-minute drive to Makati and just 10 minutes from Alabang.

"The Victorianne is a unique neighborhood in Manila not only because of the architecture but more for its synergy with La Posada where it is located," said Brittany president Jing Serrano. "The ornate, multi-level structures of the Victorianne complements the single-detached homes of La Posada, providing a harmonious variety within the development."

Seemingly fairytale homes

The trademark candy colors, bay windows and ornate details characterize these seemingly fairytale homes with two model units available. Duetto, a four-level structure, has two units back-to-back to ensure the homeowner's privacy. The Quadrille, on the other hand, is a cluster of four units sharing two of the four walls to maximize the space. A separate entrance and view guarantee the homeowner's privacy. The Duetto and Quadrille occupy a total of 146 square meters of floor space on an 86-sq-m lot and 126-sq-m floor space on a 70-sq-m lot, respectively.

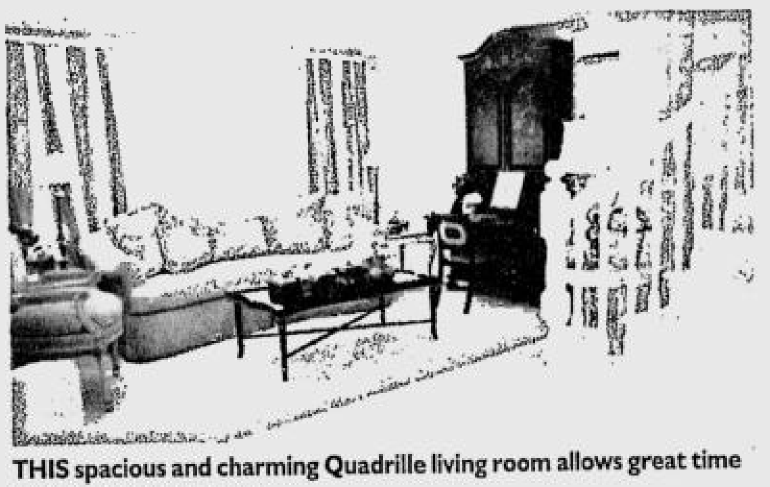
In a way, Brittany went to the right firm for the development of the Victorianne. When asked of his design philosophy, architect Marcos de Guzman Jr. of Architecture Network shared that it is "to be able to capture in an architectural design my client's concept and vision for the property." True enough, De Guzman translated Brittany's concept of building homes inspired by the Painted Ladies of Alamo Square in San Francisco.

But it was not going to be easy for De Guzman and his team. "The lot cuts of the property were small for the kind of single family homes meant for La Posada. Yet the space was too big to merely go to waste. They needed more affordable units but townhouses would not jive with the rest of the development. I supported the models that would look like single-detached homes and the results are the Quadrille and the Duetto," De Guzman explained.

The challenge, he added, was in having to fit all the requirements within the specified land area without making it look cramped. Part of the solution was in building multilevel units to add much-needed floor area. The configuration of the house was plotted and replotted until he was satisfied that every last inch of space was maximized.

ONCE completed, the Victorianne Row will certainly be a picture of the Painted Ladies of Alamo Square in San Francisco.

QUADRILLE façade



THIS spacious and charming Quadrille living room allows great time for entertaining guests.

Basic configuration

Both the Duettos and Quadrilles followed a basic configuration. The lower ground floor served as the utility area where the maid's room, extra storage area and the garage were located. The upper ground floor houses the pocket garden, kitchen, dining room and living room. The second floor is where the master's bedroom is located with its own toilet and bath. A large second bedroom is across the hall and can be shared by two kids.

To service them is a toilet and bath outside the room across the stairs. Additionally, an attic is provided which can be used as an office, library, entertainment center or can be converted into a third bedroom.

Amenities offered by the property include underground cabling for power, communication and CATV, available wiring for high-speed Internet connection, high-level security alarm system, swimming pool, shower rooms, tea garden, lily pond, multifunction hall, children's playground and game courts.

It is the distinctly San Francisco style of neo-Victorian architecture, however, that immediately captures the imagination of curious onlookers. According to De Guzman, the brackets, trims, bay windows and the explosion of colors serve as the property's most distinguishing features.

Inspiration

Its inspiration, the Painted Ladies in San Francisco, dates back to the 65 years between the Gold Rush and the Panama International Exposition in 1915. Nearly 48,000 houses were built according to the Victorian style. Most were destroyed by the 1906 earthquake and fire. Of those that remained, misguided modernization continued to demolish.

The '60s, however, ushered in a rediscovery of the stately homes. Owners began to restore the old Victorians. Today, homeowners are required to dress up the Painted Ladies. The neighbors would actually bang the doors of the homeowners who allow the houses to be left in disrepair.

"It is this spirit of community that Brittany Corp. shares with the residents of the San Francisco homes that served as our inspiration for Victorianne. We believe in fostering a community that protects the integrity of its property," said Serrano.

For inquiries and property previews, please call 850-2868 or 850-3084.

Working to change traditional perceptions of a contractor

DESPITE MODERN TIMES, NOT all Filipinos are fully sold on the idea of hiring contractors to build their homes.

The reluctance is due to several reasons, not the least of which is the belief that contractors pad up their prices too high that the lot owner ends up practically paying double, if not triple, the real cost of construction.

Another reason most Filipinos still shun hiring a contractor is that some contractors have tarnished the profession by exhibiting unethical business practices that include, but are not limited to, running away and leaving the project unfinished, use of substandard materials, faulty or defective construction, poor after-sales service, charging for repair while still under warranty, etc., giving the client endless headaches that last long after the last nail has been hammered.

This is the unsavory image in the minds of most homeowners that JAO Builders and Development Corp. has worked hard to erase in the eight years it has been in the construction industry.

By the sheer power and clarity of their corporate motto, "Quality is our priority!," JAO president and chief executive officer, engineer Ferdinand "Jojo" Manalastas, has strived to instill in his entire organization the company's vision of being an instrument to build the quality of life of Filipinos through the building of quality homes.

At the site, JAO's workforce reflects a clear delineation of functions and expertise through uniforms, that through their differentiated color, identify immediately whether one is a mason, painter, carpenter, foreman, engineer, architect, and so on and so forth. The same systematic approach finds itself ingrained in the operations of JAO Builders.

Living to its ideal of being a convenient one-stop shop for lot owners wanting to build their dream homes, JAO Builders provides highly defined services to answer every need of the client. Among the services JAO provides range from feasibility studies to financing, from drawing of plans to construction per se, from marketing to outright selling.

JAO Builders is a young industry player but has easily found its niche through the "Absolutely no down payment scheme," a pioneering move that other industry players have resorted to copying.

Serving as a "bridge" to those who do not have the cash to jumpstart their construction project pending the release of a loan from the bank, JAO can lay down the groundwork, providing free design and estimate as well as coordination and facilitation that also enable the client to have his loan application approved sooner and at a higher amount.

Manalastas says that JAO's name alone serves like a leverage or a guarantee for the loan. Thus, when banks find out that JAO will be behind the construction, the loan is almost 100 percent approved and at the amount truly needed by the client. The construction then gets to proceed right away even without the client providing any equity, as is the usual norm with other companies.

JAO, additionally, bridges the gaps in between the subsequent releases of the bank loan. While other construction projects would temporarily cease, pending the next staggered release of the loan and subsequent payment by the client, JAO continues the project without interruption. Its good relations with suppliers guarantee that construction materials will come steadily to the site, with the company technically making what we, Filipinos, call as *paluwal.*

In these difficult times, JAO prides itself with having no less than 30 ongoing residential projects at any given time, a proof, Manalastas pointed out, that Filipino families are warming up or, at least, not exactly averse to hiring contractors if they know that the contractor can be trusted.

"Track record is very important in the contracting business. No amount of press releases or hype can make it for you. Your projects ultimately speak for your company," the 38-year-old Manalastas stressed.

JAO prides itself most in the word-of-mouth promotion. "Word-of-mouth promotion is really working for us tremendously. Previous clients who were clearly satisfied with our job would usually recommend us to their friends, vouching that our work is *pulido at maganda ang kalidad.* In that way, it becomes like an unbroken chain of clients," Manalastas volunteers.

Indeed, the young engineer's construction philosophy could be summed up, thus, "To constantly uphold the Filipino values of honesty, integrity and professionalism in the construction industry." JAO's workforce is repeatedly motivated to treat the company's projects as if they were their own personal property. As such, they pay meticulous attention to detail and would not just let pass any substandard work.

With the correct values mixed into the high-quality materials and people JAO provides, there is no wonder that JAO is now considered a formidable player. After all, it is measuring itself against the standards of the values it has deemed any contractor should possess—honesty, professionalism and integrity. That basically covers all aspects of the business. For inquiries, call 926-0989 or text 0917-8033938 or log on to www.jaobuilders.com.

Northgate Cyberzone welcomes HSBC

NORTHGATE CYBERZONE, THE 18.7-hectare IT park in the Filinvest Corporate City, recently welcomed its newest locator—HSBC Electronic Data Processing (Philippines) Inc.

The 5-story, 18,000-square-meter building is HSBC's eighth global service center. HSBC's decision to locate in Northgate Cyberzone only strengthens the Philippines' position as the preferred location for outsourced business operations in Asia. This regional service center will house a 2,000-seat call center and business process outsourcing business for HSBC's global operations.

The HSBC building was constructed under a built-to-suit arrangement between HSBC and Cyberzone Properties Inc., developer of Northgate Cyberzone IT Park, and was completed ahead of schedule.

Northgate Cyberzone is the first IT park south of Manila master-planned and built around the needs of technology-based companies. Currently, it houses 15 locators representing an impressive cross-section of the Philippine IT industry.

Controlling natural light with Luxaflex windows

LIGHT HAS LONG BEEN UTILIZED IN homes and commercial establishments to achieve a favored ambience. But more than being a mood enhancer, studies have shown that light also plays a role in one's mental and emotional health.

Clinical Psychology professor and popular radio call-in therapist Dr. Judy Kuriansky says that light can actually increase one's energy, elevate one's mood, and when properly controlled, even facilitate one's sleep pattern.

Tremendous effect

"Light has a tremendous effect on mental health," says Kuriansky, who is also an adjunct professor at Columbia University Teachers College and at the Department of Psychiatry at Columbia Medical Center.

In fact, Kuriansky encourages people to think carefully about their circadian rhythms. This refers to the 24-hour psychological rhythms associated with the 24-hour cycle of the earth's rotation. "It is important for people to feel that they have control over their environment," she says, "and some window coverings enable you to do that."

This is why Kuriansky favors Hunter Douglas's Luxaflex Window Fashion for the variety and flexibility they offer in controlling light, privacy and views of the outside world. She believes that controlling light as well as ensuring its absence goes a long way toward promoting a good night's sleep.

During the daylight hours, for example, Luxaflex Window Fashion allows a healthy measure of sunlight to enter a home. But they can likewise diffuse and gently filter it, rather than block it, so that its positive effects can still be felt without the harsh glare and heat.

LUXAFLEX Window Fashion provides variety and flexibility in controlling light, privacy and views of the outside world.

LUXAFLEX Silhouette Shades can easily be tilted for light control.

Light control

The Luxaflex Silhouette Shade, for example, can easily be tilted for light control. It allows one a view of the outside and at the same time deflect glare. The shades can also be opened for a full soft-focus view and closed for privacy.

The Luxaflex Duette Honeycomb Shade likewise provides privacy and at the same time helps darken a room and cover a part of a window to block an unsightly view with its unique top-down, bottom-up application. Its honeycomb-like cells likewise help a room warmer or cooler and even absorb unwanted sounds.

Like Kuriansky, Christine Baumbach, an interior designer in Oak Park, Illinois, favors Luxaflex Window Fashion. Her clients are often concerned about privacy, and Luxaflex Window Fashions help them access sunlight while blocking unwanted views.

The homes of her clients are frequently only 20 feet from their neighbors, so Kuriansky specifies top-down/bottom-up window coverings for all first-floor rooms as well as second-floor bedrooms, providing the sleeping spaces with privacy while affording them access to natural light and open-sky views.

Generational difference

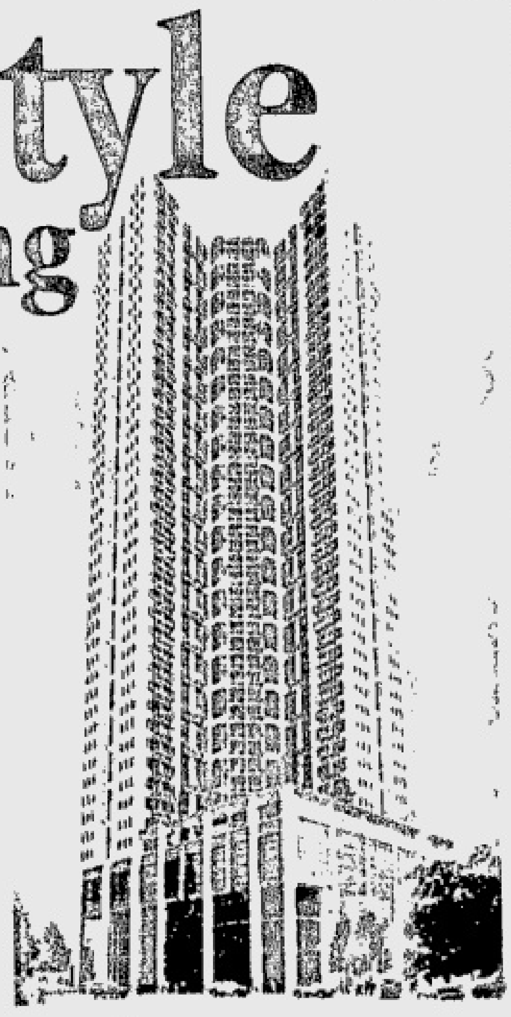
Baumbach also notes a generational difference among her clients, saying "my older clients like the sense of privacy and concealment provided by layered windows while my younger ones want to be open to the outdoors but still have privacy at night. Luxaflex Window Fashion gives me both the reliability and variety I need for all of my clients."

Luxaflex Window Fashion likewise carries roller shades that have unique heat control features, wood blinds that come in 100 percent hardwood and are available in several colors and finishes, and Venetian blinds that have high tensile strength that help reduce permanent bending and damage.

Luxaflex Window Fashion has been the top choice of interior designers and architects worldwide for decades. Since inventing the aluminum Venetian blinds in the 1940s, its mother company, Hunter Douglas, has evolved into an industry leader and trendsetter. In fact, its window fashions adorn the most stylish homes, offices, hotels, restaurants and buildings in more than 100 countries today.

To know more about Luxaflex Window Fashion, please visit www.hunterdouglas.com, e-mail at luxaflex@hunterdouglas.com.ph, or call (02) 453-3155 and 0920-9249765, 0917-8239241, 0922-8089275 and 0915-4062136.

Loft-style condo living



THE CONCEPT OF LOFT LIVING BEGAN IN Paris in the middle of the 19th century as artists' workshops. The massive paintings created during that time required vast high-ceilinged studios—the earliest lofts. In the United States, loft living arose in New York's Manhattan Soho district where lofts became immensely popular and sought-after by well-off young professionals.

Loft living today is now a lifestyle that seeks to be different from the typical and flat condo living. This late 20th century housing phenomenon is taking off beyond the likes of key cities such as New York, San Francisco and Boston, and reaching out beyond the borders. Now in the Philippines, this lifestyle's appeal comes from Robinsons Land Corp.'s newest project, the McKinley Park Residences' architectural features: high ceilings, open space and expansive glass windows letting in a lot of natural light.

Symbolizing new movement

One of the country's most dynamic developers, Robinsons Land is responding to a growing demand for alternative lifestyle living in the metro. Set amid the bustling Bonifacio Global City, said to be the country's future business capital and residential district, McKinley Park Residences (MPR), a 43-story tower, symbolizes the new movement in residential development: loft-style living.

Available in affordable one-, two- and three-bedroom units, all MPR units are carefully designed to suit a convenient and enjoyable lifestyle while not being financially constricting to the buyers. Units are priced as low as P2.47 million for the one-bedroom units, P4.35 million for the two-bedroom units and P6.34 million for the three-bedroom units.

Accessible

Just minutes away from both the international and domestic airports, major thoroughfares Edsa, C-5 Road and the South Expressway, and major business districts Makati and Ortigas, MPR is situated in a neighborhood that offers numerous restaurants, shops, cafés, boutiques and salons.

The world-class St. Luke's Medical Center, Price Smart, MC Home Depot, the Sports Kamp recreational facility, Market! Market! and a host of international schools are all easy walking distance from MPR.

For more information, please call 636-0888 or 0922-8380888.

Plasterboard offered as better alternative in residential buildings

THE GROWING AWARENESS AMONG Filipino consumers about new alternative products has spilled over to the building and construction sectors, where new materials are being developed and offered as better substitutes to traditional building components such as plywood and fiber cement boards.

One popular alternative that has made significant inroads in the local market is Boral Plasterboard from Australia, which is highly recommended by architects and interior designers for both commercial and residential projects because of its superior performance and great flexibility.

Ben Murphy, country manager of Boral Plasterboard in the Philippines, said their drywall and ceiling plasterboard systems were designed to suit the needs of end-users.

Very affordable

"Plasterboards are easy to cut, fix and install, yet they provide residences with much more thermal insulation as well as fire resistance than ordinary building materials. You also get the highest quality finish for interiors at very affordable costs, Murphy said.

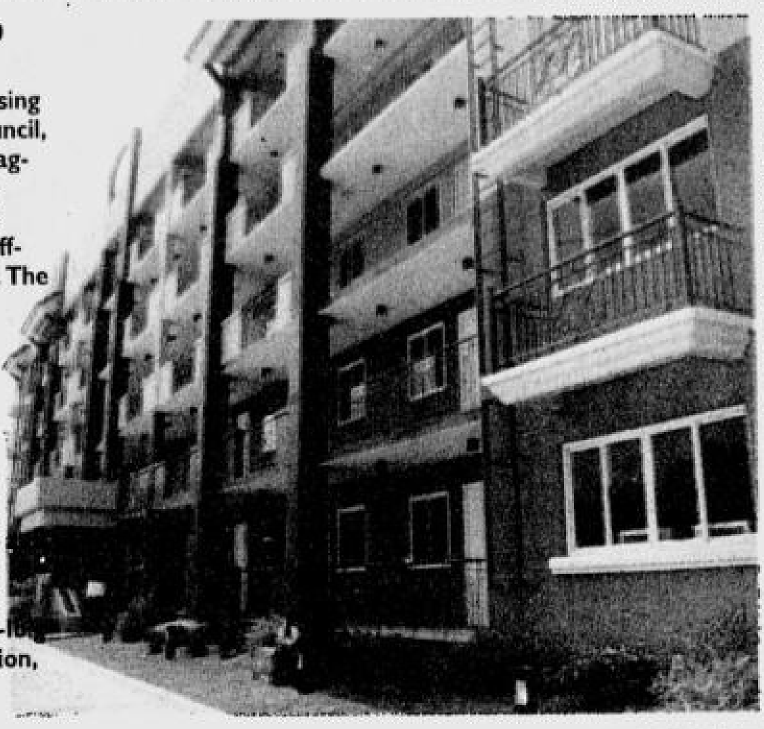
Compared with traditional building materials, he explained that Boral plasterboard systems provide excellent acoustic insulation, which is ideal for interior finishing in high-density residential spaces, condominiums and townhomes.

Boral's comprehensive plasterboard drywall and ceiling systems have been extensively used by the country's commercial construction sector, and steadily gaining acceptance in the residential and renovation markets.

"We believe that Boral Plasterboard has a very good chance of further increasing its share in the Philippine residential market segment as evidenced by the growing number of residential projects that now use them," Murphy added.

Boral Plasterboard is the leader in construction materials in Australia and in plasterboards in the whole of Asia. Some of the country's prestigious buildings which have used Boral plasterboards are Rockwell Condominiums, the RCBC Plaza, Glorietta 4 and the British School of Manila.

DMCI HOMES HOLDS BONIFACIO HEIGHTS ROADSHOW



DMCI Homes, in cooperation with the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, the AFP Special Services Housing Board, Pag-Ibig and AFP Real Estate, recently held the Bonifacio Heights road tour to disseminate information regarding the AFP's premier off-base housing project to the AFP personnel. The tour kicked off at the Philippine Military Academy in Baguio City, followed by the Northern Luzon command in Tarlac. Also included in the tour lineup are camps in Zambales and Clark, and in Visayas and Mindanao. Bonifacio Heights is a premier condominium development built by DMCI Homes exclusively for AFP personnel. The housing project is located in Fort Bonifacio is only a stone's throw away from the Fort Global City and Makati City. DMCI Homes offers flexible payment terms through Pag-Ibig and in-house financing. For more information, please call 888-3333 or visit www.dmcihomes.com.

360° Living launches new models at La Marea's Trails II

360° LIVING, A CORPORATE DIVIsion of real estate maverick Brittany Corp., offers a themed community master planned to complement life's priorities with the newest phase of La Marea at San Pedro, Laguna—Trails II. With inspirations drawn from American ranch-style homes, Trails of La Marea further enhances its neighborhood with the launch of three new model homes for Trails II.

Driven by the success of the Trails of La Marea, Trails II is patterned after the 360° Living's insight that raising children defines resident's priorities, needs and lifestyle. Thus, Trails II is anchored around the family, with architecture and use of space creating nontraditional ambiance and configuration.

3 new models

A three-hectare enclave surrounded by the verdant greens of Laguna, Trails II is nestled within the 42-hectare residential estate of La Marea. Inspired by the warm reception for the first three models, Trails II presents three new models evoking a comfortable ambiance with its use of earth tones highlighted by golden hues and details reflecting the architecture of American ranch-style homes:

- **Tiara Piccolo.** For the Tiara Piccolo, sophisticated design is married with ingenious architecture to create comfortable living areas. It has three bedrooms, two toilet & baths and a living area and floor area of 70 square meters on a minimum lot area of 110 sq. m.
- **Paige.** Suiting the lifestyle of growing families, the Paige model is carefully designed to meet varying needs and tastes. It has three bedrooms, three toilet & baths, a maid's room and lanai and has a floor area of 107 sq m on a minimum lot area of 150 sq m.
- **Caitlin.** The largest of the three new models, Caitlin maximizes space with thoughtful design with three bedrooms, three toilets & baths, a maid's room and a terrace. It has a floor area of 160 sq m on a minimum lot area of 180 sq m.

Primary models

All sharing the distinct architecture of American ranch-style homes, the three new models of Trails II complement the primary models which attained great reception from the market:

- **Ungiolley** reveals a delightful interplay of space and height, it has a floor area of 160 sq m on 180-sq-m lot area priced at P5.5 million.
- **Alexandra.** Its ingenious architecture and creative interior design maximize the model's floor area of 168 sq m on 180-sq-m lot with price of P4.9 million.
- **Vittoria.** Offering plenty of room to complement the lifestyle of large families, it has a floor area of 188 sq m on 210 sq m lot area while priced at P6.2 million.

Each of the six models incorporate nature's splendor in their designs.

Trails II features innovations that improve the quality of life of its residents and puts "creative living" within reach. These innovations include new designs for picket fences, stone cladding to enhance the look and value of homes, garbage bins, termite control and mail boxes.

5-point design philosophy

Trails II expresses the five-point design philosophy of 360° Living as conveyed by the original Trails of La Marea:

- **Intelligent use of space.** Intelligent space planning gives each home a feeling of being bigger than it actually is showing that "more can be done with less.
- **Shelter around activity.** Each room in the homes is designed with family activities in mind promoting harmonious interaction among family members.
- **Multifunctionality.** Rooms can be used for more than one function (e.g. family room doubles as a guest area, or as a room for reading, listening to music or watching TV).
- **Space of one's own.** Each home has individual spaces for every member of the family (e.g. a quiet corner for mom, a mini-work space for dad, a hideaway for a child, etc.).
- **Interior views.** Windows are thoughtfully placed so they look out onto delightful vistas, with natural light emphasizing the sense of space within.

Unique amenities and facilities will soon be available for residents of Trails II to complete its ideal environment. These include a fern garden that will be accessible via a hanging footbridge, butterfly sanctuary, mist, pond, clubhouse and swimming pool. All these attractions will provide unending opportunities for residents to discover nature and will leave them no reason to go out of the community for leisure.

Trails II is only a 10-minute drive from the bustling corporate and commercial areas of Alabang and eight minutes away from the booming industrial town and leisure destinations in Sta. Rosa. Its strategic location on the recently opened San Pedro exit of the South Luzon Tollway, makes Trails II "city-close," removed yet not remote. Previews may be arranged by calling 360° Living at 842-1251 or 842-0436.

Leading

From page B3-1

ture. By staying connected to the world, Canyon Ranch residents may be able to do business or stay in contact with the world whenever they want and wherever they want," reveals Antonio.

A preview of what life Canyon Ranch offers can now be viewed on site as Century Communities created The Street of Dreams, a row of model homes that would allow visitors a foretaste of the community's charm and unmistakable character that awaits them.

Canyon Ranch, Century Property's flagship development, is being developed in partnership with the Manila Jockey Club, landowner and operator of the San Lazaro Leisure Park.

Century Properties is a subsidiary of the Century Properties Group, a recognized leader in real estate marketing, management and development in the Philippines whose recent developments include Soho Central in Mandaluyong City and South of Market (SoMa) in Fort Bonifacio Global City in Taguig.

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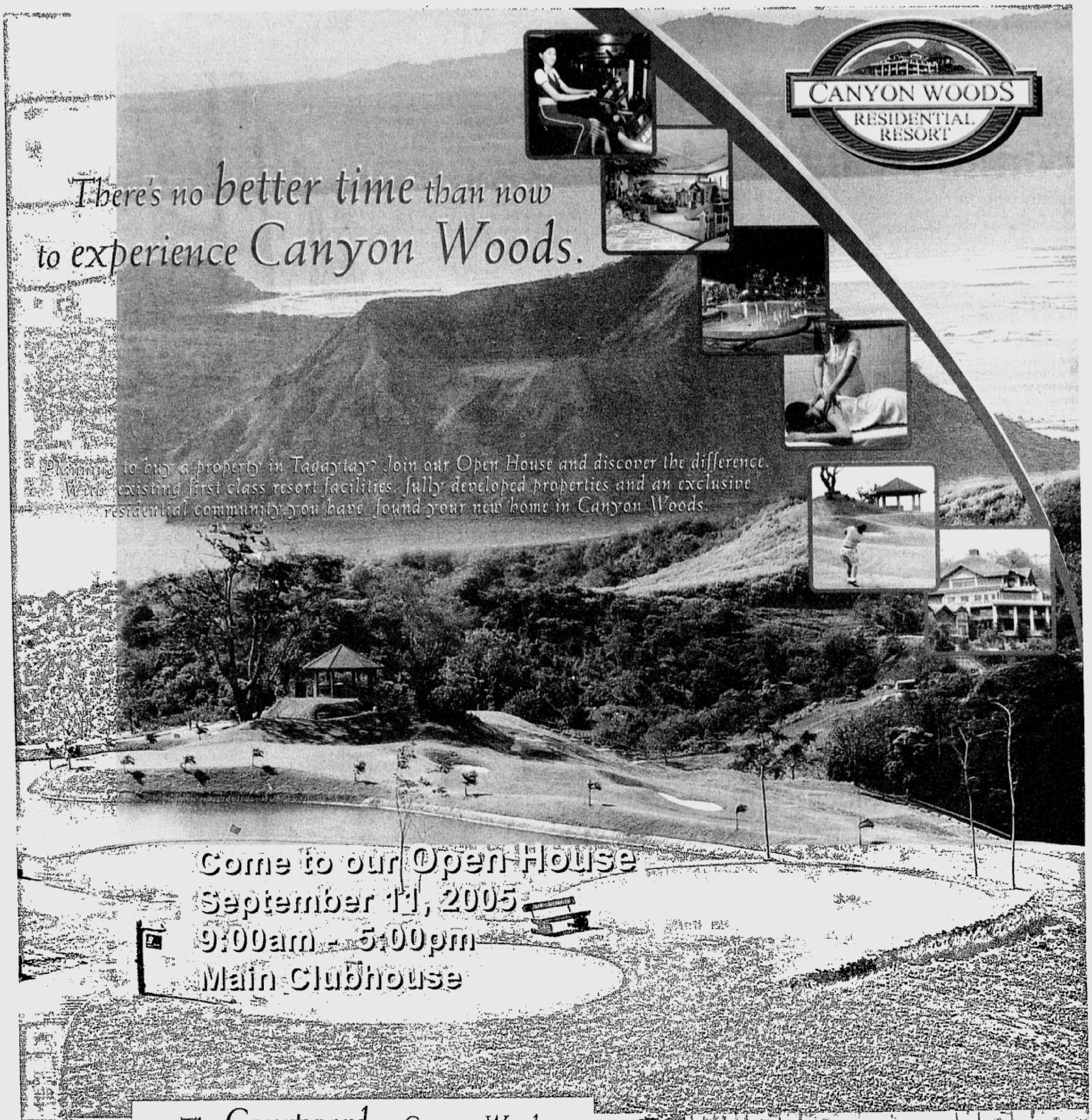

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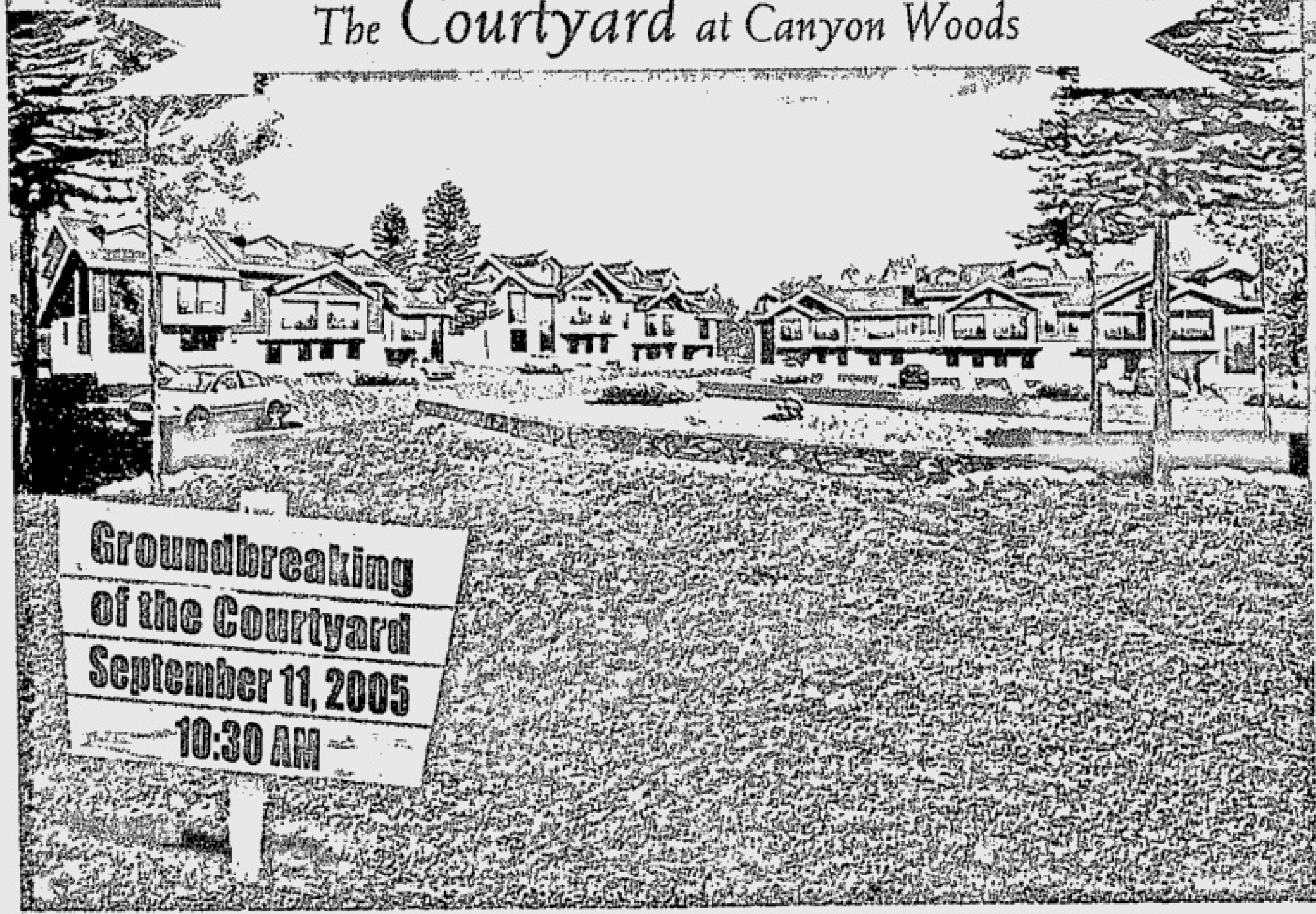

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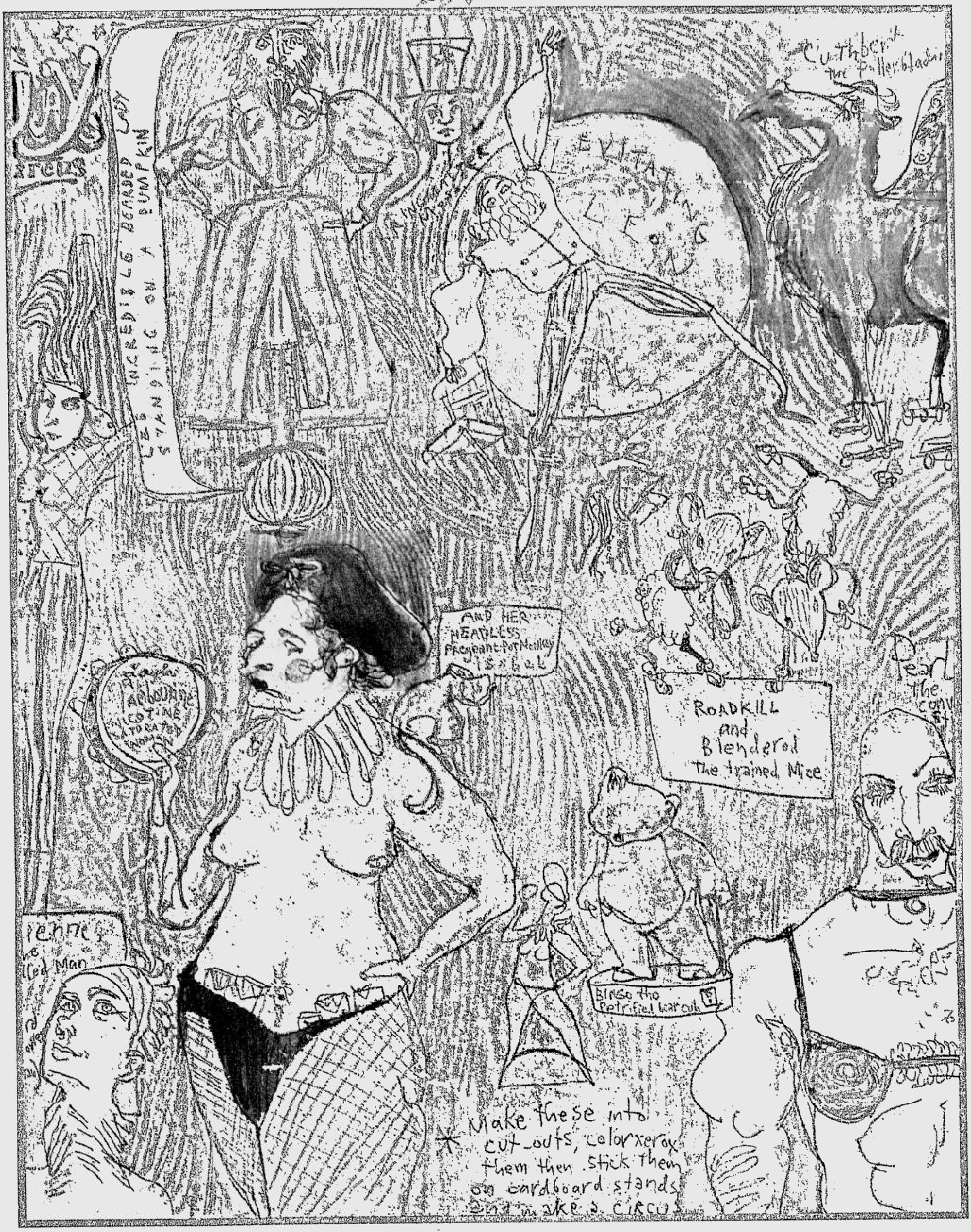

INCREDIBLE BEARDED LADY
LES
STANDING ON A PUMPKIN
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Cuthbert the Rollerblading
AND HER HEADLESS Pregnant-Pot Nellie Isabel
ROADKILL and Blendered The trained Mice
BINGO the Petrified bear cub
Make these into cut-outs, colorxerox them then stick them on cardboard stands and make a circus

Heavy petting

Having a connection with another form of life gives you the power to heal and be healed

By Katrina A. Holigores
Original artwork by Jason Moss

IT'S A DOG'S LIFE THEY SAY. IF only it was. Having a dog or a pet at a tender young age could either be: a growth experience or: a cruel mistake (to the pet, not the owner). Most of us may have grown up on Disney, Hanna Barbera, the Looney Tunes and Sesame Street. Let's not of course forget "Batibot" and traditionalists please don't hate me for forgetting the name of the series of lesson books that featured a *kalabaw* mascot and a lady tomato head. What's my point, everyone I mentioned above used one common thread, animal characters as teachers or entertainers. We were all clamoring for a shirt of Big Bird rather than the grocer (see I forgot the name) and I'm sure Mickey Mouse will leave a longer lasting impression over Michael Jordan.

Unconditional love

I could be wrong and I'm no expert on trivia and I'm pretty sure a number of you are googling frantically to see if I am, in fact, mistaken in my comparisons. But that's missing the point really, I'm not about to prove the effectivity of animals versus people in terms of marketing, I'm here to write about the much understated abilities of these "beasts" to heal. Through unconditional love, and strangely enough, by leading through example. How so? In this rat race that most of us now find ourselves in, we are under constant pressure to DO in order to BECOME. Example, we have to DO well in school in order to BECOME the best in class and perhaps the most coveted new recruit in the most lucrative multinational.

What else? We have to JUST DO IT in order to be the most successful, brightest, most beautiful, most mostest mostestest in order for us, in the eyes of others to shine brighter than the sun itself. The difference with animals, such as let's say, a nice furry little lap dog, is that, they just ARE. In other words, even if they are supposedly lower in the food chain than us super developed highly evolved(?) humans... they have a stronger sense of self. They are what they are. So they do what they have to do. Nothing more nothing less. They're hungry? They don't count calories, they just eat... to live. They want to sleep, so what if it's 2 p.m. in the day, the best time to meet a client, or they go snoring quite happily for everyone to hear. They're horny? Well...

No excuses

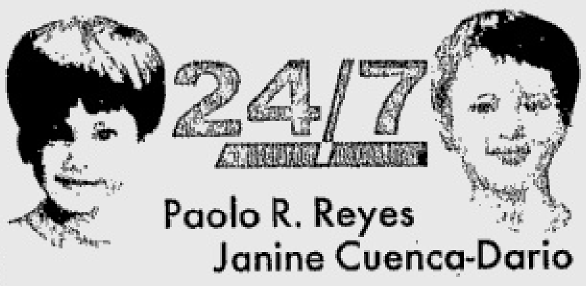
Maybe I'm being too simplistic and maybe I'm saying we're not better than animals. Honestly, I am, we're no better, and neither are we any worse. All I can say is that if we could all greet one another with the same enthusiasm and genuine adoration that our dogs do when we get to see them, we would all feel a lot more loved. Animals express a real interest in their surroundings, and they take great pains to preserve and care for their homes or territories. How long does it take for you to clean your desk or your room? Hmmm. When was the last time you did something that would indirectly or directly affect the state of the world we ALL inhabit. Sure, it's just ONE cigarette out the window into an already polluted highway, into an already clogged sewerage system. Guess what, you just made yourself part of the problem. There are no excuses.

Having a connection with another form of life gives you the power to heal and be healed. We have to coexist for the balance of life to remain... balanced. We may not be able to speak canine, feline or be a horse whisperer but when we pat our dog and it gleefully flips over in order for a belly rub, we can't help but laugh and feel a certain level of joy. If you stroke a cat and it starts to purr closing its eyes in an almost meditative trance we strangely feel soothed and relaxed. Seeing the spirit and majesty of a horse as it runs we feel humbled by its awesome beauty and the gracefulness of its gait. These may only be three animals, but they do evoke a reaction do they not? That is something to pay attention to. These animals are a lot wiser than we give them credit.

Jungle

Of course, I am aware that not everyone has an affinity to the animal kingdom. That's fine. I am in no way implying that you should substitute human love for animal love, I'm merely suggesting that having a pet can be an elixir and we all need one because, as you know it's a jungle out there. Maybe the next time you look at that doggie in the window, bear in mind that it is probably looking you in a more objective angle, or better yet, without judgment. How many humans are capable of that?

Indie-pendence



Paolo R. Reyes
Janine Cuenca-Dario

OVER THE YEARS, FILIPINO showbands have made quite a name for themselves around the world. But, recently, we've witnessed another facet of Filipino musicality. The 2005 MTV Pilipinas Video Music Awards held last Aug. 25 and last week's Terno Au Go Go event reinforced our observation that a resurgence of the local music scene is swiftly underway.

Is this OPM revival due to an audience growing sick and tired of the remakes and schmaltzy love songs which have long dominated radio airwaves and store racks? Or do we owe this to the prolific talent bursting of late, with artists offering original music representing everything from rock to electronica to rap? This week, catch some of these talented musicians in Saguijo, Dish, and '70s Bistro, and at the upcoming Indie Music Fest on Tuesday.

Jasmine Trias: Live in Concert, 8:30 p.m. tonight

With the recent release of her self-titled debut album, Jasmine Trias is back in Manila for another concert to appease her Filipino fans who are still reeling from her defeat at the 2004 "American Idol" slugfest. With special guest South Border, she performs tonight at 8:30 p.m. at Centerstage, SM Megamall Cinema 10. Call 891-9999 or 551-7777.

Footloose: The Musical, 8 p.m. tonight

The hit Broadway musical will run every weekend at the Meralco Theater until Sept. 25. Leading the stellar cast are R&B prince Jay-R, MYX VJ Iya Villania, and theater stalwarts Audie Gemora, Carla Martinez, and Agot Isidro. Call 635-4478 or 891-9999.

Indie Pilipinas' 4th Indie Music Fest, Sept. 13

More than just another independent music label, Indie Pilipinas claims to be the official "support group" behind the growing Philippine independent music scene. This Tuesday, the group invites everyone to support their movement as they mount their 4th Indie Music Fest in collaboration with UP Diliman's APO Sorority. Catch local indie bands Agaw Agimat, Alamid, Bridge, Datu's Tribe, Acel's Day Off, Stonedcigars, Hilera, The News, The Spoons, Mundogs, Different Day, Beans Baxter, and Capsule Cream. The concert starts at 7 p.m. at Perlie's Bar and Grill, Elliptical Road cor. East Avenue, QC. For a small cover charge of P50, they promise great music from 13 promising bands and, well, a free bottle of beer. Call (0920) 219-4514 and (0917) 836-7018.

OperaNow @ CCP, Sept. 14

Opera doesn't have to be a drag, especially if the production is infused with edgy staging, modern fashion and immortal music. In "OperaNow," a unique concert to be staged on Wednesday at CCP Main Theater at 8 p.m., you can banish all your preconceived notions and leave the top hat and tails behind. Witness three generations of Filipino opera divas sing their heart out while decked out in contemporary costumes created by Manila's top couturiers. Plus, with a portion of the proceeds going to CRIBS, it's all for a good cause. Call 891-9999, 895-8097 or 832-3878.

Other Super! 24/7 events:

Sept. 10, Saturday

National House Anthems with NBK DJs at Mezze; "Artists Talk and Conversation" with Carlos Celdran & Yason Banal at the Silver Lens Gallery; Supermodel Saturdays at Embassy Club; Soundsgood DJs at Embassy Cuisine; DJs Patch & Paolo Abaya at Absinth; The Cascades at Araneta Coliseum

Sept. 11, Sunday

R'meo Luvs Dew-Lhiett at CCP Studio Theater; Aaron Pormarejo exhibit at Ricco-Renzo Galleries; CouchLab DJs at Tiananmen Bar; Six Part Invention at Ratsky's Malate

Sept. 12, Monday

Soul Seduction with Kate Torralba & DJ Patch at Absinth; Bridge at '70s Bistro; I Don't Like Mondays! with DJ Ro at Gweilos Makati; Acoustic Night with Unlabeled at Suburbia; Arpie & the Multivitamins at Siete Pecados

Sept. 13, Tuesday

Pinoy Soul Movement with Pinoy Stories, Cosmic Love, & Sino Sikat? at Saguijo; Bloomfields at Dish; Willy Wanka's Music Factory with Joffy Cruz at Gweilos Makati; Isha at '70s Bistro; Velvet Party with DJ Kimosave at Absinth; Ebony Grooves at V Bar; Guarana at Café Havana Greenbelt; Steak Tuesdays at Halo; CouchLab DJs at Tiananmen Bar; Freeverse at Suburbia; Ang4getables & Dawn Bande at Merk's

Sept. 14, Wednesday

Session Road at '70s Bistro; Menaya & Pupil at Saguijo; Rivermaya & Severo at Dish; Johnyverse & Mars Miranda at Embassy Club; British Council's Macbeth at CCP; Bellini Night with Karl Ty & Cao Ocampo at Embassy Cuisine; Flirt with James McCranie at Absinth; House of Rock at Halo; Pseudonymz at Suburbia

Sept. 15, Thursday

CouchLab DJs with Jun Lopito at Manila DJ Club; Kapatid,Orange and Lemons, & Pinas at Saguijo; British Council's Macbeth at CCP; Kitchie Nadal at Casino Filipino; Tropical Depression at '70s Bistro; Drizzle at Katips

Sept. 16, Friday

HouSessions with Manolet Dario at Mezze; Cynthia Alexander and Triggerbliss at Saguijo; La Balla with Calypso DJs at Maestro Lounge; Superfly DJs at Nuvo; Friday Night Flava at Dish; Brownbeat at Wasabi; Musik at Embassy Club; Guarana at Gateway Mall; CouchLab DJs at Embassy Cuisine; Fierce Fridays at Government

Schedules may change without prior notice. For more information and a complete listing of events, text 24/7 through your mobile phone and send to 2949 for Globe and 209 for Smart. Log on to www.mag24-7.com or pick up your free copy of 24/7 Nocturnal Navigator at bars and restaurants around the city. Submit your schedules before Thursday to e-mail address events@mag24-7.com and mag24_7@yahoo.com.

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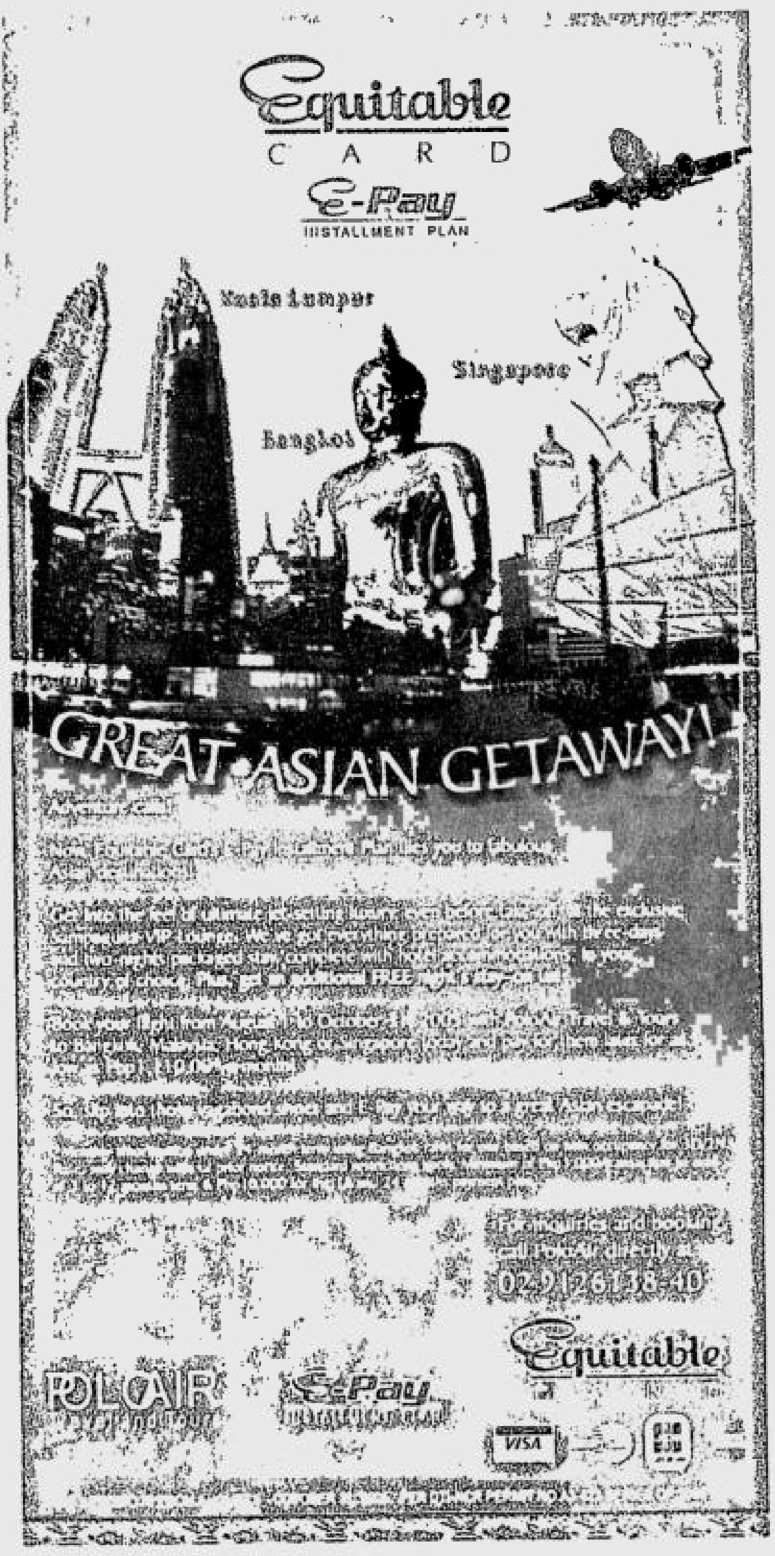
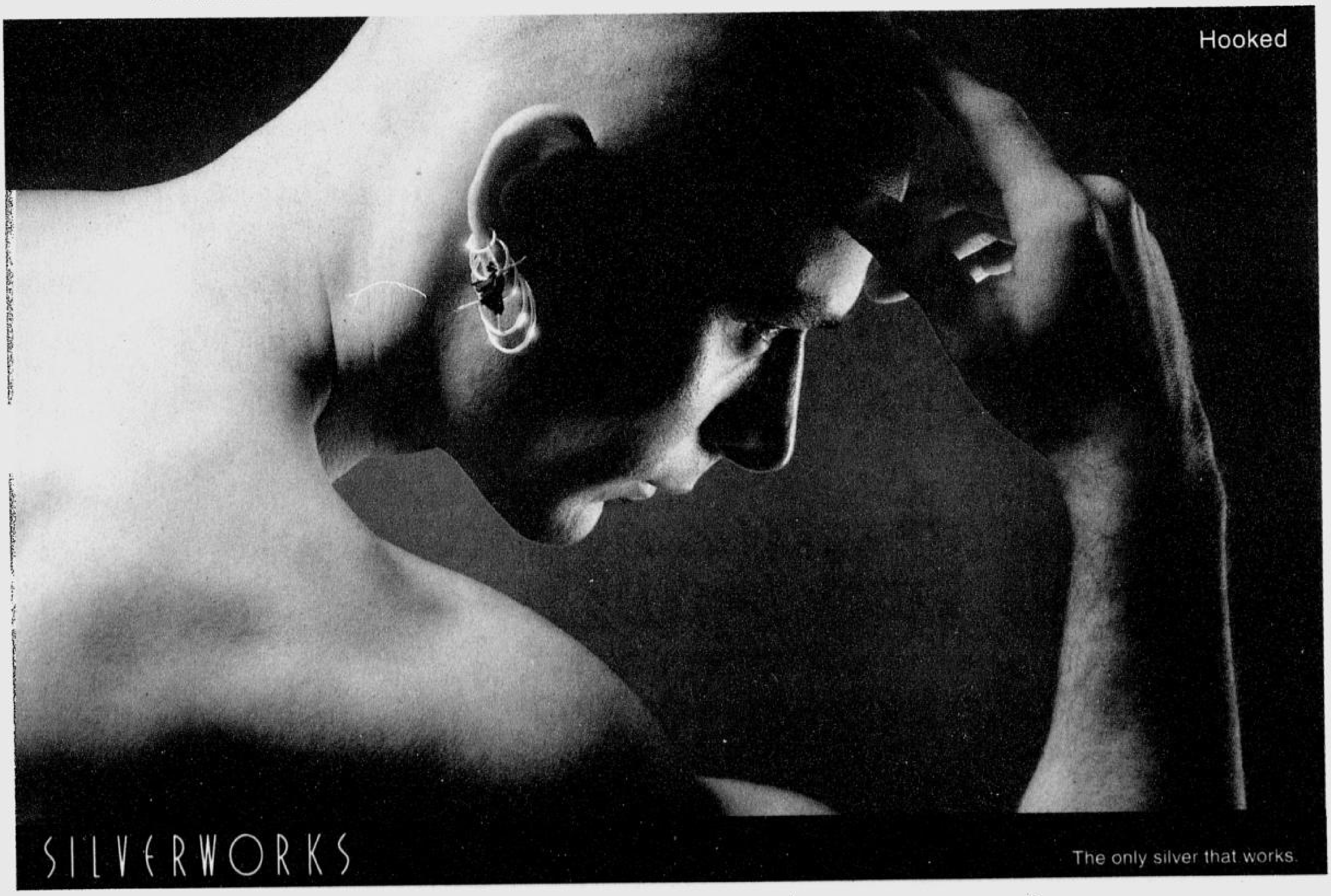
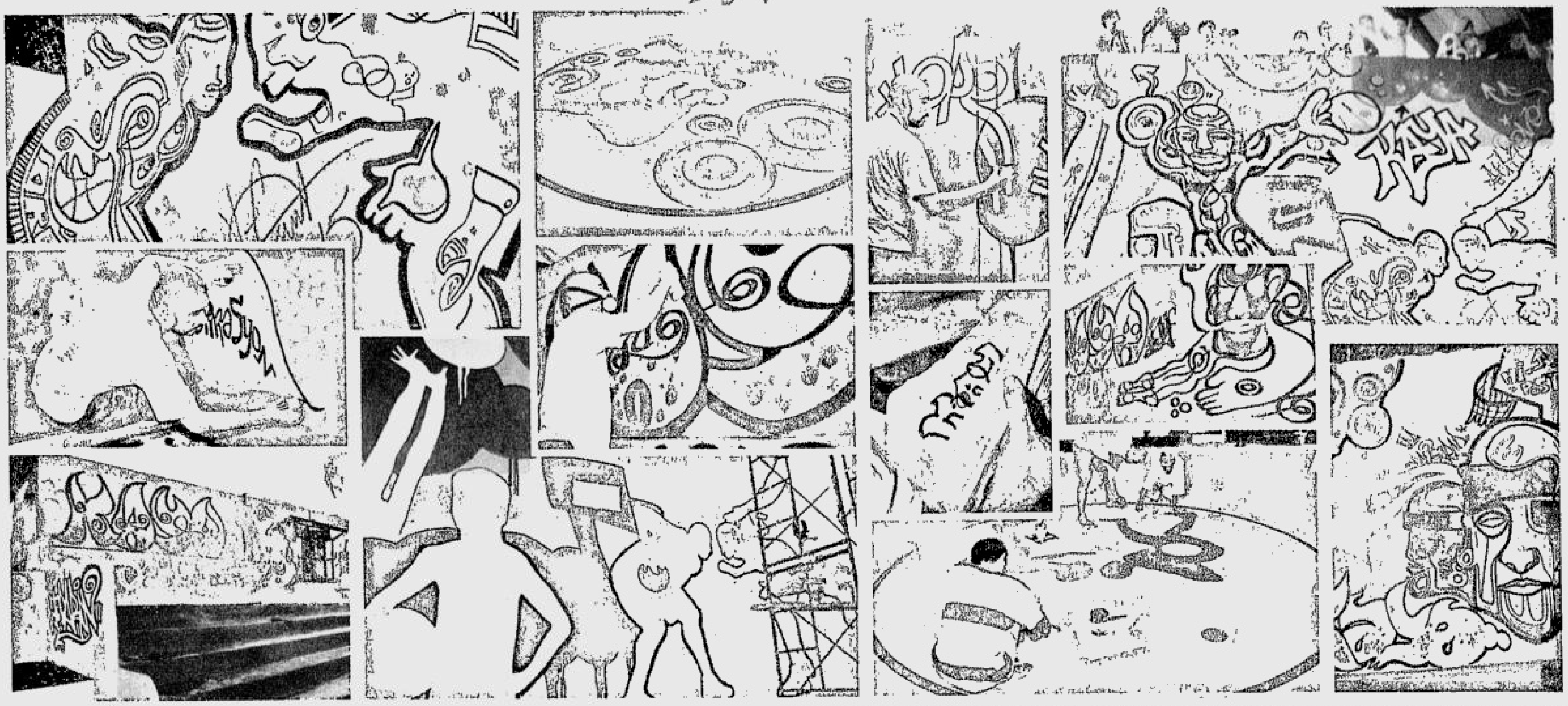






JUST DO IT AND FLY... ON A WALL. Proof of Nike's commitment to the future of ballers in the Philippines.

THE TRANSFORMATION OF AN EDIFICE:

Why a Caliph8 took the humble route towards inspiring a generation

By Stevie Tambunting

THE NAME CALIPH8 (PRO nounced caliphate) has its origins in ancient Islamic traditions of the Ummah, or the community of Islam. Caliphs were supposed "successors" to Muhammad, a rather lofty title during those times. To ponder over the historical significances of the name would be to veer away from the true meaning of the story. The story is told of an artist, a basketball court and the experience of turning a concrete courtyard into a meaningful, inspiring edifice for the community.

Caliph8's (aka Arvin Nogueras) first impressions of the Sarmiento Playground, located at the heart of Sta. Mesa, were of a "true grassroots scene." The artist added that the "walls and edifices seemed very dull and gray," and that it was "aesthetically dead, but very feasible for graffiti art." Street vendors lined the streets, children walked happily along the small busy streets and students hurried up and down to catch buses and jeeps that rolled busily along. "It was quite awkward at first, but it kind of grew on me," he added.

No pretenses

As the scaffoldings went up, the paint applied on every concrete slab and the Nike styling rendered in bright primary colors, Caliph8 had grown to love the area and grew inspired by it. He says that the place was "very real, no pretenses." He also added "the area was straight up 'Manila streets' type, and very urban." This caliphate went around the local streets, ate the local food and interacted among the vendors and kids around the area. "I felt like a local there," he states with pride.

Hip-hoperations

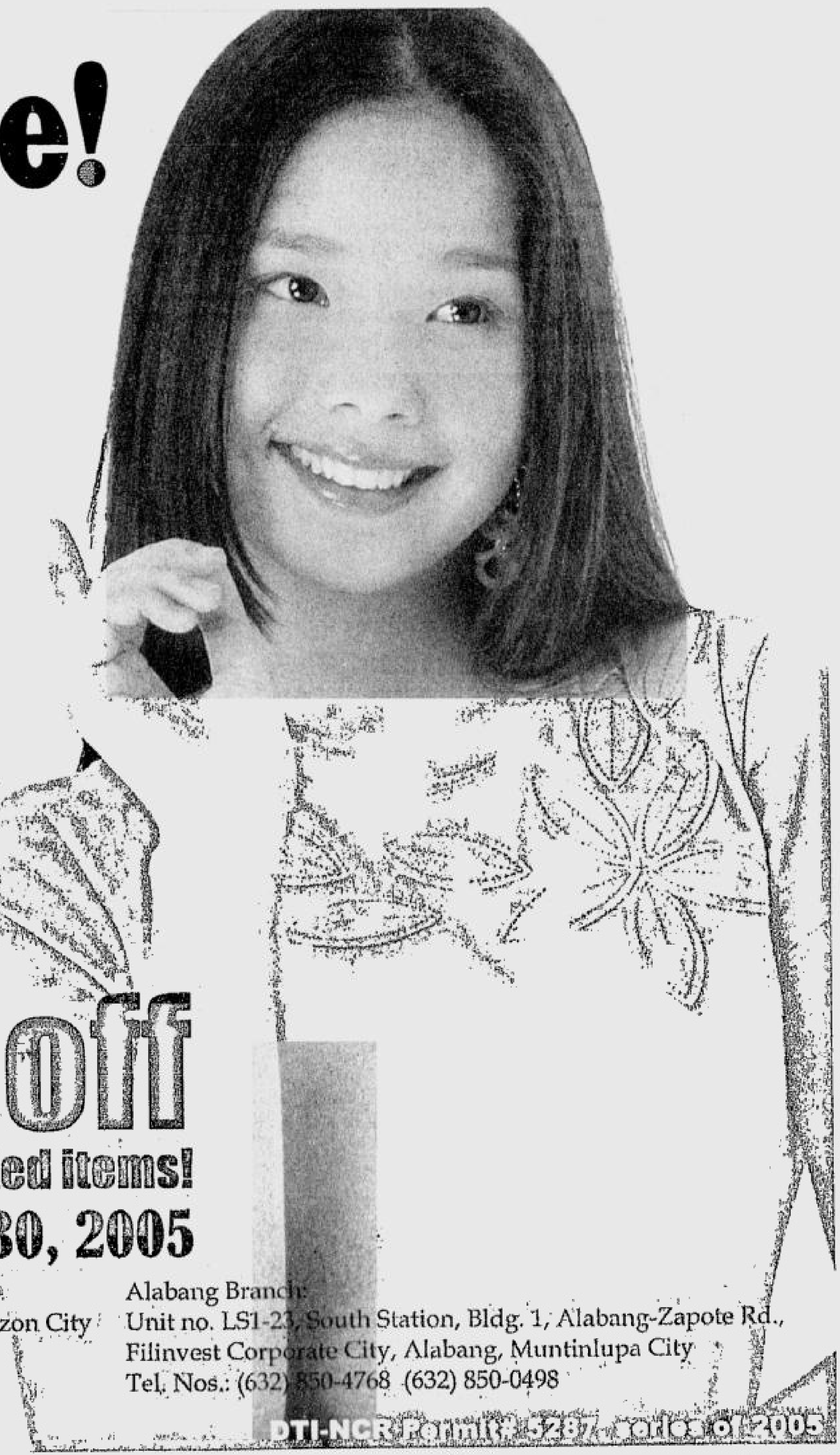
With the artist starting to connect with this ambitious project and the community slowly embracing the beautification of their grounds, the concept started to solidify and materialize. Every stroke, detail and burst of paint was slowly becoming a unified piece. Locals came to watch, and wonder as the he prepped and painted the walls with abstract visions inspired by basketball culture and hip-hop sensibilities.

It all came together finally, days before the visit of the great Vince Carter, NBA superstar and idol to millions of Filipinos. The piece was unique, striking and beautiful all at the same time. It had the word "KAYA" emblazoned in colorful graffiti colors in various places around the court. When asked where the inspiration behind the word came from the artist said that he "just thought of us (Pinoys), Manila and the idea of achieving a dream or goal, thus flexing the word KAYA. It wasn't even planned out, I just made it on the fly."

August 11, 2005 and the day had finally arrived. The guest of honor to the hordes of Filipino basketball fans, Vince Carter, had arrived to thunderous applause and rapturous expectation. Vince himself formally unveiled the mural and had the first shot on this work of sporting art. He duly signed a mural that depicted the possible journey of a basketball player throughout the various stages of athletic development. He also received a one-of-a-kind pair of shoes designed especially by Caliph8 for the iconic VC. A poignant exchange of admiration for the artist's work at the center circle saw the worldwide superstar awestruck and moved by the Philippines' offering of a striking "pair of kicks" that embodied so much of today's basketball culture.

When asked about VC's positive reaction to the mural and the shoes, the artist said "he told me that he digs the murals and the kicks a lot, and that he might wear it in one of the games. I was cool about it, like yeah… no doubt you dig it… right, but deep inside I was hyped as James Brown busting out some real Funk. That was quite an experience."

Nike had commissioned Caliph8 to colorize a court and paint a wall with a wonderful vision for the visit of Vince Carter. What it got was a long lasting impression on a structure that will weather many a storm and that will inspire many passionate Filipino ballers for years to come.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Gino de la Paz

Instant 'ayos'? Deep black shine? 'Buhaghag'-free? 'Parang nagpa'-rebond? 'Balik' freshness, 'balik' bounce bounce bounce bounce? 'Hoy' Philippines, it's time to cut your hair!

IN THE CINEMATIC WHIRLING Dervish that was Peque Gallaga's "Pinoy Blonde," one scene totally stood out, at least for me. It was when Conrad Cunanan (Epy Quizon) indulged his film-geek self and dreamt up the ultimate movie moment for himself and his girlfriend, Yanni (Iza Calzado).

The stroke of genius in question had Yanni aping a shampoo commercial with deadpan accuracy. The only difference was, her hair acrobatics lasted longer than usual, which—duh!—was the point of the whole thing. Hysterical, creepy or poignant, Yanni's wall of hair was—pun alert—the crowning glory of the film since it was a statement about the economics—or freakonomics—of Pinoy advertising today.

Though Yanni's locks seemed supertalented, really, they weren't all that unique. See, hair gymnastics has become a staple—a running gag, even—in the truckload of interchangeable shampoo ads that swamp our popular media. Which is why I paused, yelped and nearly tongued the TV when I saw an ad that wasn't quite like the ones I'd already seen.

Ate, your hair is possessed!

The deviant advertisement's first few seconds start off rather typically, with a chick rocking a head of straight, black, shiny hair around her 'hood. But things go incredibly pear-shaped when her tresses come to life, make like a cracked out monster from "The Ring" and raise hair hell. As if the bitch-slapping wasn't gangsta enough, the spoof ends with said chick begging to have her long, demonic 'do chopped off once and for all. It's very Joan of Arc but, uhm, not.

The mastermind behind this inspired commentary is a woman named Ompong Remigio. After Campaigns & Grey, the agency she calls daddy, won the 19th Philippine Ad Congress account, our cliché-busting creative director took on the advertising status quo with the "Refresh The Philippines" crusade.

"The tagline of the campaign is 'Ready for the World?' It ends with a question mark," Ompong says. "Because honestly, we're not, if we don't change." And by change, she's referring to the repetitive, *gasgas*, seen-one-seen-'em-all ads the industry seems to produce with mad confounding glee.

"In this country," she continues, "there is this thing called 'the holy ground.' It's one big circus that we can't change." Ompong footnotes to the tried, tested and overused story lines as being the "monsters we ourselves have created." We're also responsible for fueling the irritating cycle. Again, the popularity of paint-by-numbers shampoo ads proves that.

Battle cry for change

"The commercials we did for the Ad Congress represent a battle cry for change," Ompong tells me.

"Speaking in perfect English is classy, Tagalog is *jologs*. The use of a mestiza endorser sells; a testimonial from a brown-skinned native does not. Our ads must project values, but expect them to be aired in sensational showbiz gossip shows. Ads should be done in good taste, or else no clearance to break in toilet-humored variety shows. Ads shouldn't be disparaging, or else, no clearance to broadcast in competing TV stations that are after each other's neck. Ads shouldn't show violence, but they play in TV soaps with a lot of slapping scenes? Ads should undergo focus group discussions (FGDs) to test its connecting power, but brings to audiences TV commercials with no distinguishing characteristics—hair that shines, babies that glow, and mothers in white capris with families to show?" she thinks out loud.

Ompong also believes that advertisers are bleeding big money by making everything look the same and undermining the intelligence of the Filipino consumer. "Some say we have to do ads that are idiot-proofed, since our consumers are not sophisticated and bright. But our consumers are Filipinos, and our advertisers are Filipinos, too. And we are all consumers. So for the life of me, I can't do an ad that only idiots can understand." So is playing it safe effective in a country where most people have the same hair color anyway?

Telling the difference

Cosmopolitan Philippines beauty editor Mariel Chua can't tell the difference between all the shampoo ads that feature the same impossibly photogenic hair. "At the most, I notice the change in hairstyles," she says. "Like one time, Rejoice featured a girl with LAYERS in front. Big deal *na 'yon* for advertising people *kasi* they're quite conservative that way."

As a consumer, Preview Magazine's Agoo Bengzon is also at a loss. "I can't tell the difference. They all look ridiculously long and unnaturally black. But then again, I guess for purposes of advertising, companies exaggerate the long, straight, shiny, black hair because this is what women in this country seriously aspire for."

Hair tactics

Our experts cite a few reasons for this fascination with long, straight, shiny black hair. "I think that most women regard this type of hair as the virginal, girl-next-door look that people generally accept. For them, it is unquestionably safe, and most conservative men are attracted to this 'look,'" Agoo explains.

Mariel has her own take. "From an advertising point of view, long straight hair is very

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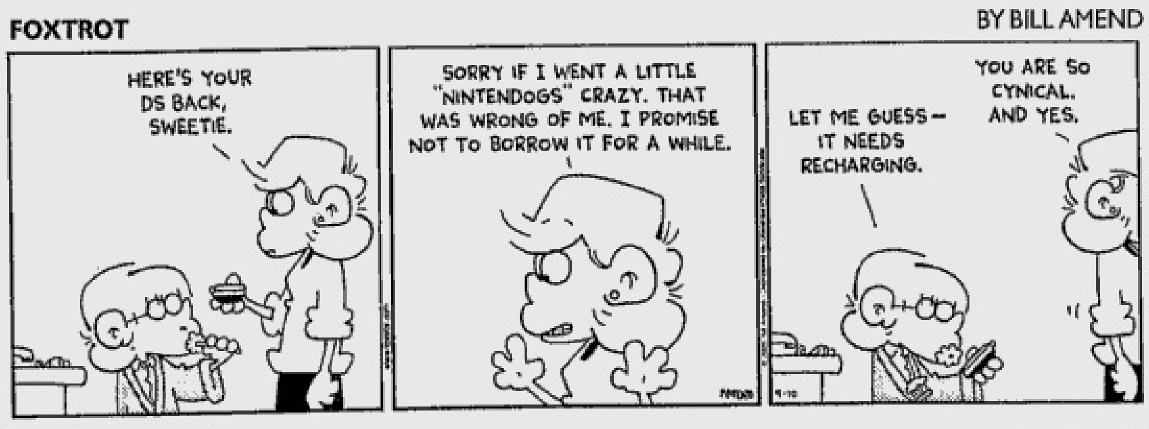
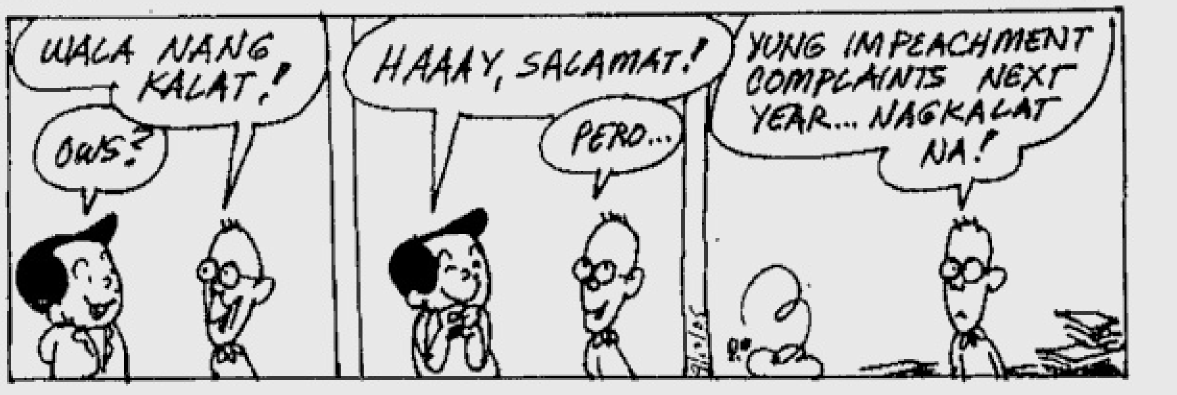
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


HERE'S YOUR DS BACK, SWEETIE.
SORRY IF I WENT A LITTLE "NINTENDOGS" CRAZY. THAT WAS WRONG OF ME. I PROMISE NOT TO BORROW IT FOR A WHILE.
LET ME GUESS— IT NEEDS RECHARGING.
YOU ARE SO CYNICAL. AND YES.

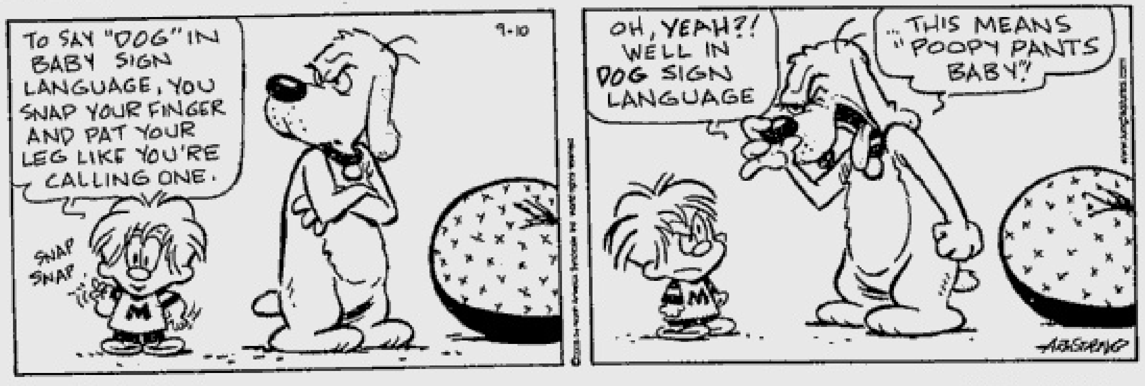
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


WALA NANG KALAT!
OWS?
HAAAY, SALAMAT!
PERO...
YUNG IMPEACHMENT COMPLAINTS NEXT YEAR... NAGKALAT NA!

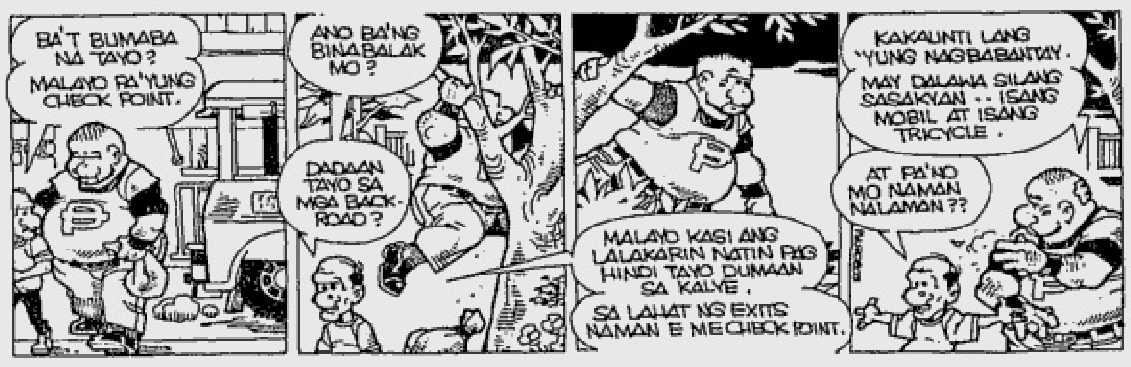
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


9-10
TO SAY "DOG" IN BABY SIGN LANGUAGE, YOU SNAP YOUR FINGER AND PAT YOUR LEG LIKE YOU'RE CALLING ONE.
SNAP SNAP
OH, YEAH?! WELL IN DOG SIGN LANGUAGE
...THIS MEANS "POOPY PANTS BABY"
ARMSTRONG

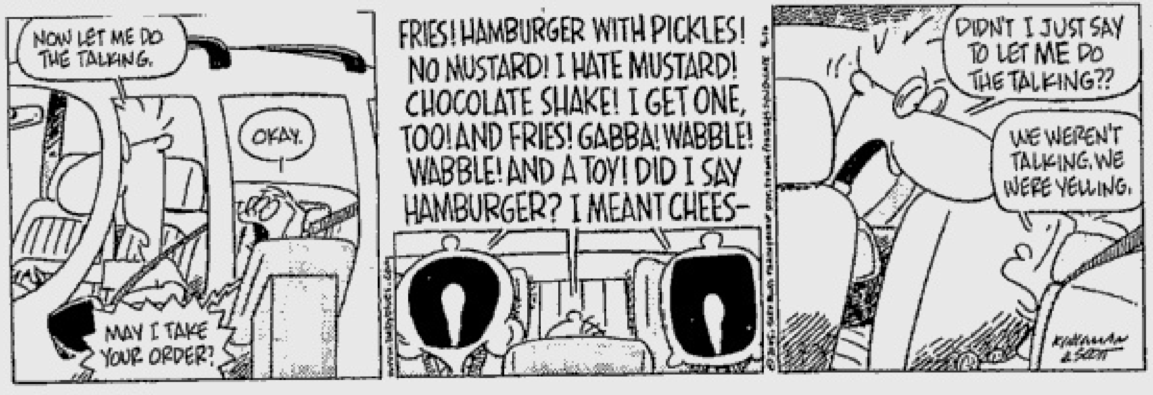
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


BA'T BUMABA NA TAYO? MALAYO PA'YUNG CHECK POINT.
ANO BA'NG BINABALAK MO?
DADAAN TAYO SA MGA BACK-ROAD?
MALAYO KASI ANG LALAKARIN NATIN PAG HINDI TAYO DUMAAN SA KALYE.
SA LAHAT NG EXITS NAMAN E ME CHECK POINT.
KAKAUNTI LANG 'YUNG NAGBABANTAY.
MAY DALAWA SILANG SASAKYAN -- ISANG MOBIL AT ISANG TRICYCLE.
AT PA'NO MO NAMAN NALAMAN??

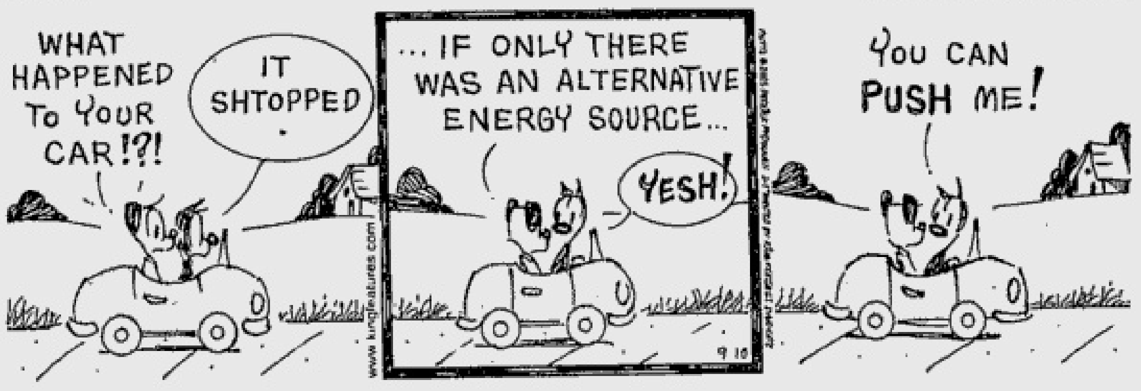
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


NOW LET ME DO THE TALKING.
OKAY.
MAY I TAKE YOUR ORDER?
FRIES! HAMBURGER WITH PICKLES! NO MUSTARD! I HATE MUSTARD! CHOCOLATE SHAKE! I GET ONE, TOO! AND FRIES! GABBA! WABBLE! WABBLE! AND A TOY! DID I SAY HAMBURGER? I MEANT CHEES—
DIDN'T I JUST SAY TO LET ME DO THE TALKING??
WE WEREN'T TALKING. WE WERE YELLING.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

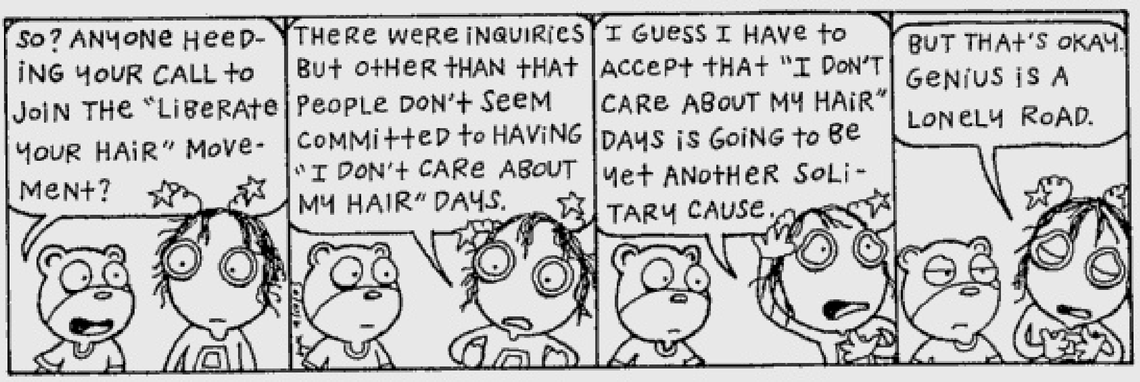
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR CAR!?!
IT SHTOPPED.
...IF ONLY THERE WAS AN ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCE...
YESH!
YOU CAN PUSH ME!
9 10

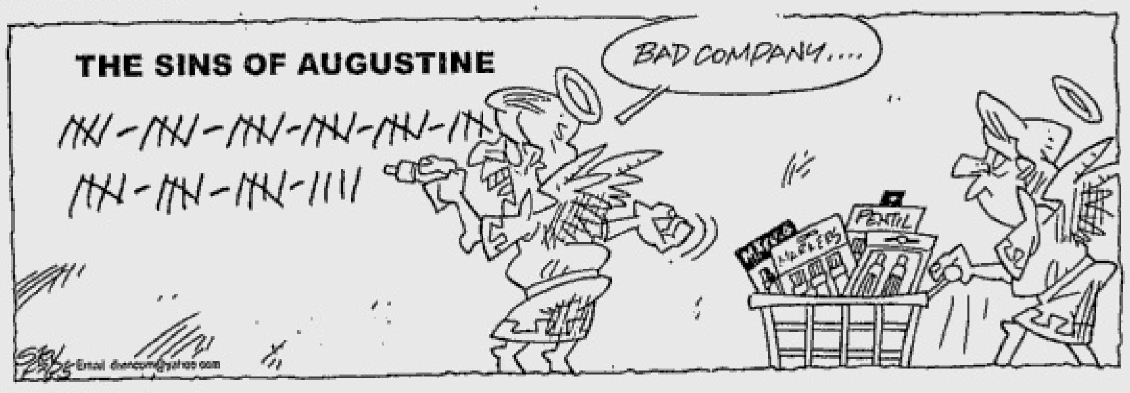
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


SO? ANYONE HEEDING YOUR CALL TO JOIN THE "LIBERATE YOUR HAIR" MOVEMENT?
THERE WERE INQUIRIES BUT OTHER THAN THAT PEOPLE DON'T SEEM COMMITTED TO HAVING "I DON'T CARE ABOUT MY HAIR" DAYS.
I GUESS I HAVE TO ACCEPT THAT "I DON'T CARE ABOUT MY HAIR" DAYS IS GOING TO BE YET ANOTHER SOLITARY CAUSE.
BUT THAT'S OKAY. GENIUS IS A LONELY ROAD.

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


THE SINS OF AUGUSTINE
BAD COMPANY....
PENTIL

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: Many of you discover a career in your younger years. You respect that which has gone before you. Although privately colorful, your public persona is conservative. You have a dignified, sophisticated exterior. Professionally, you're conscientious and reliable. The year ahead might be one of the best years of your life. Open any door.

Birthdate of: Colin Firth, actor; José Feliciano, singer; Arnold Palmer, golf champion.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Be patient with others today. (Some days are easier; some days require more patience. That's all.) You have to work for what you want today. It's no big deal.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You might feel too stretched because of spending money for social occasions or meeting the demands of children. Your cash does not flow so easily today! Romantic interests require tolerance and understanding.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Authority figures are a bit touchy today, especially parents. Go gently with family members and domestic issues. Don't expect too much of others.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): "Worry is like a rocking chair. It gives you something to do, but gets you nowhere." It's good to be reminded of this old saying. Ignore feelings of self-doubt and anxiety today.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Conversations with friends and groups have a few hiccups today. Others don't agree with you. That's OK; you don't agree with them. Why don't you agree to disagree?

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Relations with others are a bit strained today; however, by evening, everything will be much smoother. You might be briefly in the limelight today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You're very curious to learn something new today. Basically, you're restless and easily bored. Time spent in bookstores, libraries and talking to people from other cultures will interest you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You might not be pleased with how something is divided today. You're not happy with your share. Possibly, someone else is not happy with how you divide things.

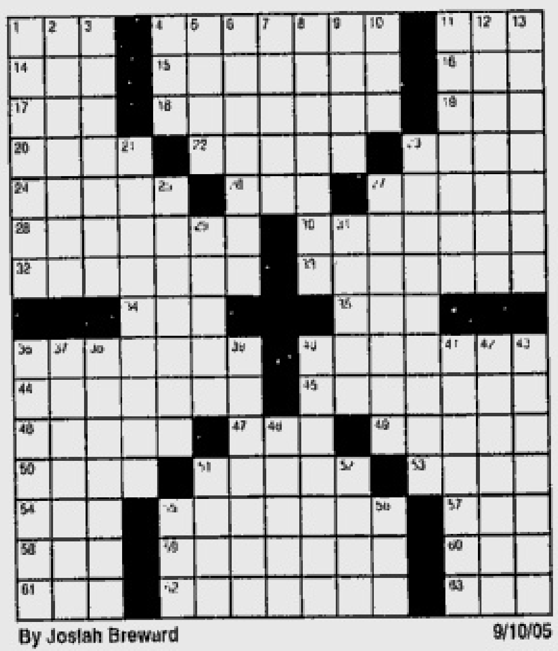
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Your boss or some authority figure suddenly looks very appealing to you today. You might develop a crush on this person—right out of the blue!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Sudden opportunities to travel or get increased training in something might fall in your lap right now. If so, accept them. You will broaden your experience of the world.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Unexpected goodies might come your way today. Nevertheless, you tend to feel a bit grumpy. (We all have days like this.) Just coast. Roll up your sleeves and get down to work.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Relations with partners and close friends are a bit strained today. People are too unpredictable! Others might do and say things you don't approve of. (Perhaps you're just caught off guard?)

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Josiah Breward
Scranton, PA

9/10/05

ACROSS
1 Man of the future?
4 Thick layers of paint in art
11 Hearth residue
14 12/24 or 12/31
15 Parade participant
16 Relaxing resort
17 Comic Brooks
18 Make a vow
19 Drag
20 Food scraps
22 Dance moves
23 Clammy
24 Church parts
26 Psychic's letters
27 Telegraph code
28 Kenya's capital
30 Strict disciplinarian
32 Rhee of Korea
33 Double-__ (London buses)
34 End hunger
35 Help waiting
36 Steamed Mexican dish
40 Loose cloak
44 O. Henry, e.g.
45 French-American dialect
46 Vessel of 1492
47 At the stern
49 Change an offer
50 Downhill gliders
51 Comprehend
53 Move merchandise
54 Feed-bag morsel
55 Nationalist
57 Lobster eggs
58 Partner of to
59 Effeminate
60 Tax agcy.
61 A ways away
62 River to Lake Ontario
63 Beast of burden

DOWN
1 Laments
2 Give too much money to
3 Russia's first president
4 Diminutive devil
5 Milky Way maker
6 Nutritious substance
7 High points
8 Dispatched
9 Thomas Hardy novel, "__ of the d'Urbervilles"
10 Galena or mispickel
11 Semitic fertility goddess
12 Backer
13 Peddlers
21 York, Bilko and Friday
23 Harbor locations
25 Ethiopia's neighbor
27 Of sunspots
29 Kathy of "Misery"
31 Three-masted sailing ship
36 Drops a hint to
37 Missouri tribe
38 Video display
39 Get going
40 Easily conned folk
41 Solzhenitsyn setting
42 Manners
43 Interminable
48 Mockery
51 Stand wide open
52 Johnnycake
55 Cribbage marker
56 Titleist supporter

Friday's Puzzle Solved

L	I	M	B	■	H	O	L	S	T	■	O	R	E	S
E	T	T	U	■	A	N	I	T	A	■	W	E	N	T
T	S	A	R	■	L	I	B	E	L	■	N	A	N	A
■	■	■	G	O	F	O	R	E	C	R	U	C	U	T
S	M	E	L	L	■	N	A	P	■	A	P	H	I	S
H	A	R	A	S	S	■	■	■	A	G	T	■	■	■
A	Z	U	R	E	T	H	I	N	G	■	O	H	O	S
C	D	C	■	N	E	A	T	E	N	S	■	A	S	P
K	A	T	I	■	T	H	E	F	U	C	H	S	I	A
■	■	■	I	N	S	■	■	■	S	O	O	N	E	R
O	M	A	N	I	■	O	S	U	■	N	O	T	R	E
B	E	R	Y	I	C	H	E	S	T	F	D	■	■	■
E	D	I	T	■	L	A	N	A	I	■	L	O	A	N
S	I	L	O	■	E	R	N	I	E	■	U	R	G	E
E	A	S	T	■	F	E	A	R	S	■	M	E	E	T

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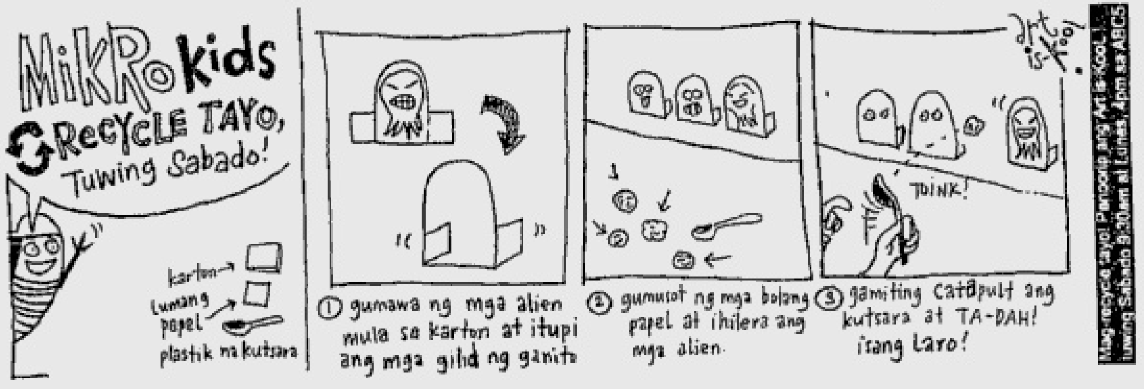
9/10/05

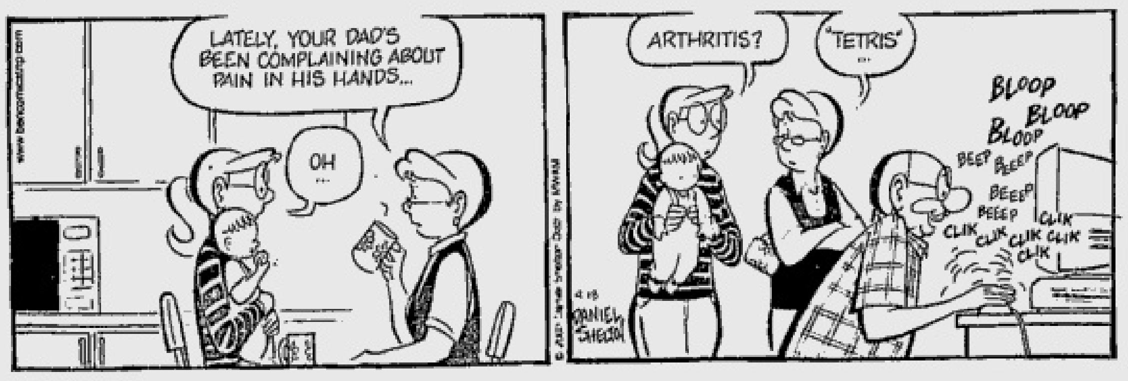
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MiKRo Kids
RECYCLE TAYO, Tuwing Sabado!
karton
lumang papel
plastik na kutsara
① gumawa ng mga alien mula sa karton at itupi ang mga gilid ng ganito
② gumusot ng mga bolang papel at ihilera ang mga alien.
③ gamiting catapult ang kutsara at TA-DAH! isang laro!
TOINK!
Mag-recycle tayo! Panoorin ang Art is Kool, tuwing Sabado 9:30am at Lunes, 4pm sa ABC5

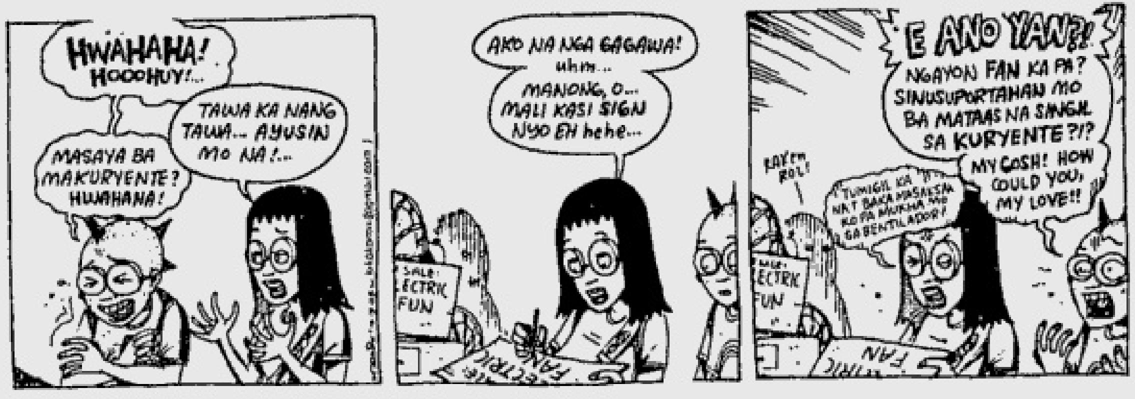
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


LATELY, YOUR DAD'S BEEN COMPLAINING ABOUT PAIN IN HIS HANDS...
OH ...
ARTHRITIS?
"TETRIS" ...
BLOOP BLOOP BLOOP
BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP
CLIK CLIK CLIK CLIK CLIK

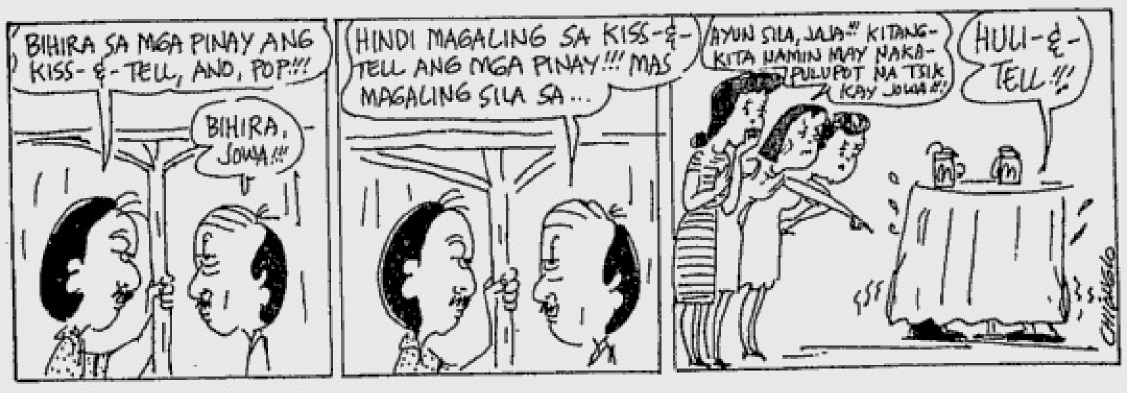
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


HWAHAHA! HOOOHUY!...
MASAYA BA MAKURYENTE? HWAHAHA!
TAWA KA NANG TAWA... AYUSIN MO NA!...
AKO NA NGA GAGAWA! uhm... MANONG, O... MALI KASI SIGN NYO EH hehe...
SALE: ECTRIK FUN
E ANO YAN?!
NGAYON FAN KA PA? SINUSUPORTAHAN MO BA MATAAS NA SINGIL SA KURYENTE?!?
MY GOSH! HOW COULD YOU, MY LOVE!!
TUMIGIL KA NA! BAKA MASAKSAK KO PA MUKHA MO SA BENTILADOR!
KAYE'M ROL!

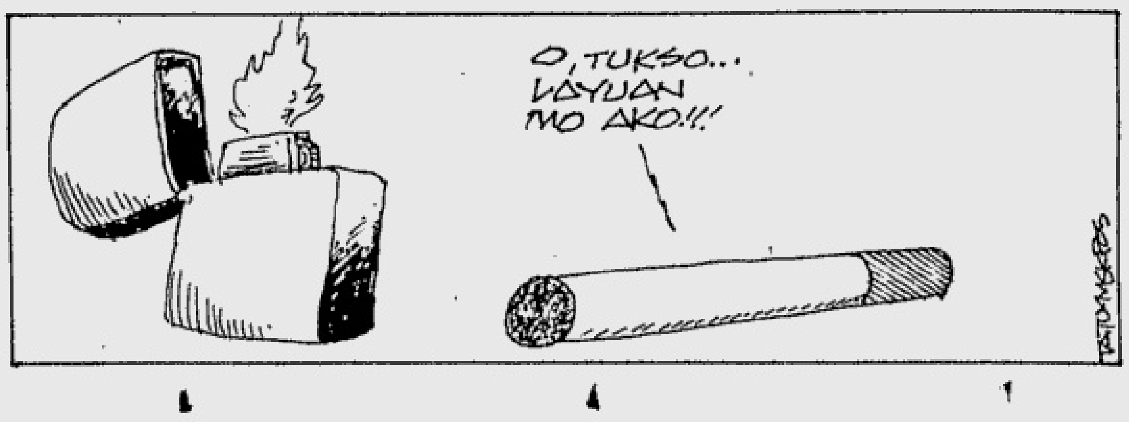
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


BIHIRA SA MGA PINAY ANG KISS-&-TELL, ANO, POP!!!
BIHIRA, JOWA!!!
HINDI MAGALING SA KISS-&-TELL ANG MGA PINAY!!! MAS MAGALING SILA SA...
AYUN SILA, JAJA!! KITANG-KITA NAMIN MAY NAKAPULUPOT NA TSIK KAY JOWA!!
HULI-&-TELL!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


O, TUKSO... LAYUAN MO AKO!!!
TATUM&PAPU

[illegible]

Jesus is a baller ID?

[illegible]

[illegible]

k o m o d o
MANILA

It Must be Komodo
Teak & other Hardwood Furniture

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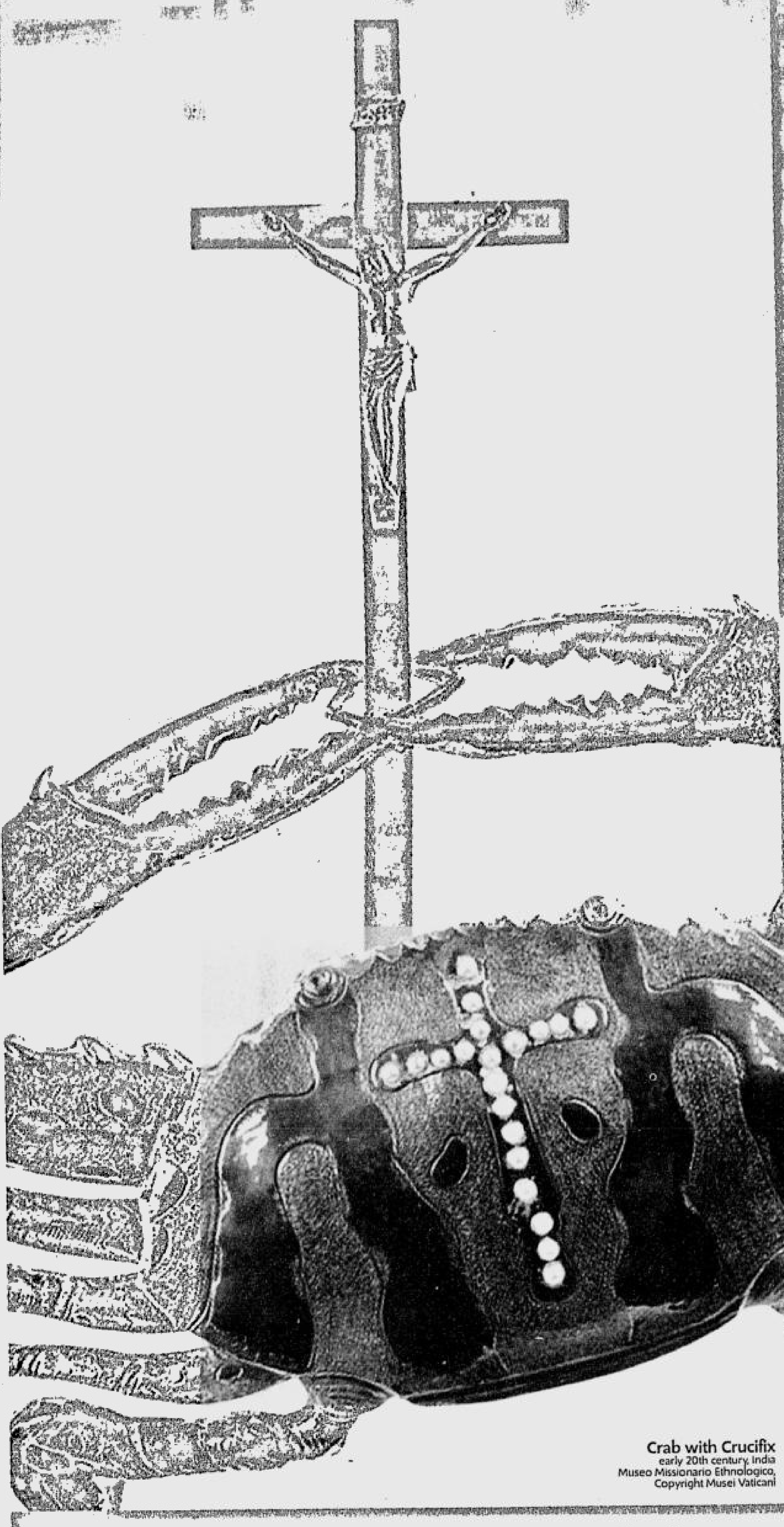
JOURNEY OF FAITH
ART & HISTORY FROM THE VATICAN COLLECTIONS
Asian Civilisations Museum, 18 June - 9 October 2005



Crab with Crucifix
early 20th century, India
Museo Missionario Ethnologico,
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Discover the artistic past of Christianity through this rare exhibition of priceless religious artefacts and masterpieces. Then experience the Sacred Music Festival that celebrates the diversity of Christian music from all around the world with performances from over 100 local and international artists.

Sacred Music Festival Highlights

Mendelssohn's Elijah
30 September - 1 October

Roman Carnival
10 & 11 September

Other Events

Curator's Tour of the Exhibition
26 August

Italia Frescoes: A Modern Vision about Art & Faith Exhibition
2-13 September

Rome from Renaissance to Baroque by Sabrina Zuber, Art Consultant
29 September

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SM Advantage *update*

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Jesus is a baller ID?

[illegible]

JOURNEY OF FAITH
ART & HISTORY FROM THE VATICAN COLLECTIONS
Asian Civilisations Museum 28 June - 9 October 2005

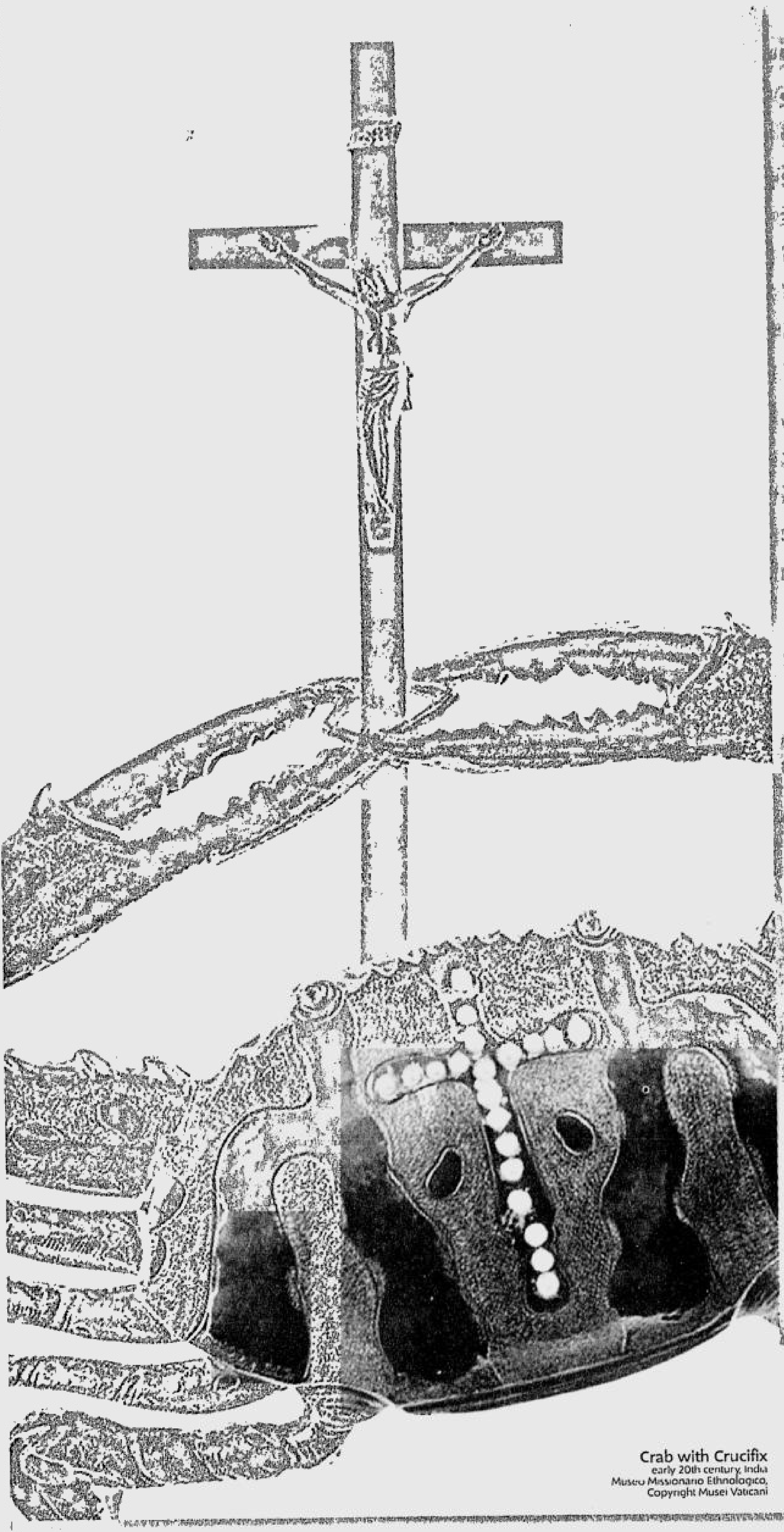
Discover the artistic past of christianity through this rare exhibition of [illegible]

Sacred Music Festival Highlights

[illegible]

Other Events

[illegible]



Crab with Crucifix
early 20th century, India
Museo Missionario Ethnologico,
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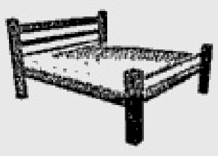
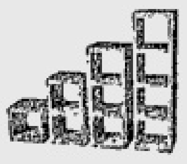
TOURISM BOARD
SINGAPORE AIRLINES

[illegible]

komodo
MANILA

It Must be Komodo
Teak & other Hardwood Furniture





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SM ADVANTAGE
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PAMELA R GARCIA
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SUPER REVIEW

Jesus is a baller ID?

By Jamie Gabrillo and Pepo Diokno

WHAT DO YOU THINK ASTIG is? [illegible] show? Or a teen [illegible] show? Or a pop culture [illegible] [illegible] Who do you think [illegible] the show? [illegible]

ASTIG [illegible] their message [illegible] if you love God [illegible] ASTIG [illegible] hip-hop [illegible]

If you do something bad, just pray, and God will forgive you!

Who writes this crap? [illegible] who loves her Church and claims she was put in her position by God himself? She can sit and [illegible] pray [illegible] words right. ASTIG [illegible] what about repentance? [illegible] name of the Father doesn't mean anything if you don't know what you're saying.

[illegible] the show contributes to the dumbing [illegible] children. The show has reduced faith in a set of prayers and actions and [illegible] twisted society creates to pass time.

The show has turned religion into [illegible] because ASTIG [illegible] so shallow [illegible]

Yes, it's for kids. That's our point. Do we want to introduce five-year-olds to a shallow faith? Do we want kids to start doing motions without meaning? Do we want them to say empty prayers—prayers for shallow causes?

While the show does send the message that if you love God you're cool, it gives children the wrong incentive to love God.

They have reduced God into a baller ID: [illegible] wear a baller ID, cool [illegible] love God, cool ka [illegible]

Regardless of whether their audience [illegible] then they're just sending the wrong message. Children who watch this show are going to grow up not knowing what true faith is—because in their heads they're thinking, "I go to Mass [illegible] because I want to be a Stig." In other words, "I go to Mass and pray because EVERYONE ELSE DOES."

You might say that all the show wants to do is put God back in the lives of the kids of this generation. And it does. But what the show is [illegible] the real essence of Jesus [illegible] religion.

It's not about loving God anymore. It's about following what other people tell you to do.

It's a preachy show by the way.

ASTIG is on ABS-CBN every Saturday [illegible] We've only seen this show once [illegible] watching it [illegible]

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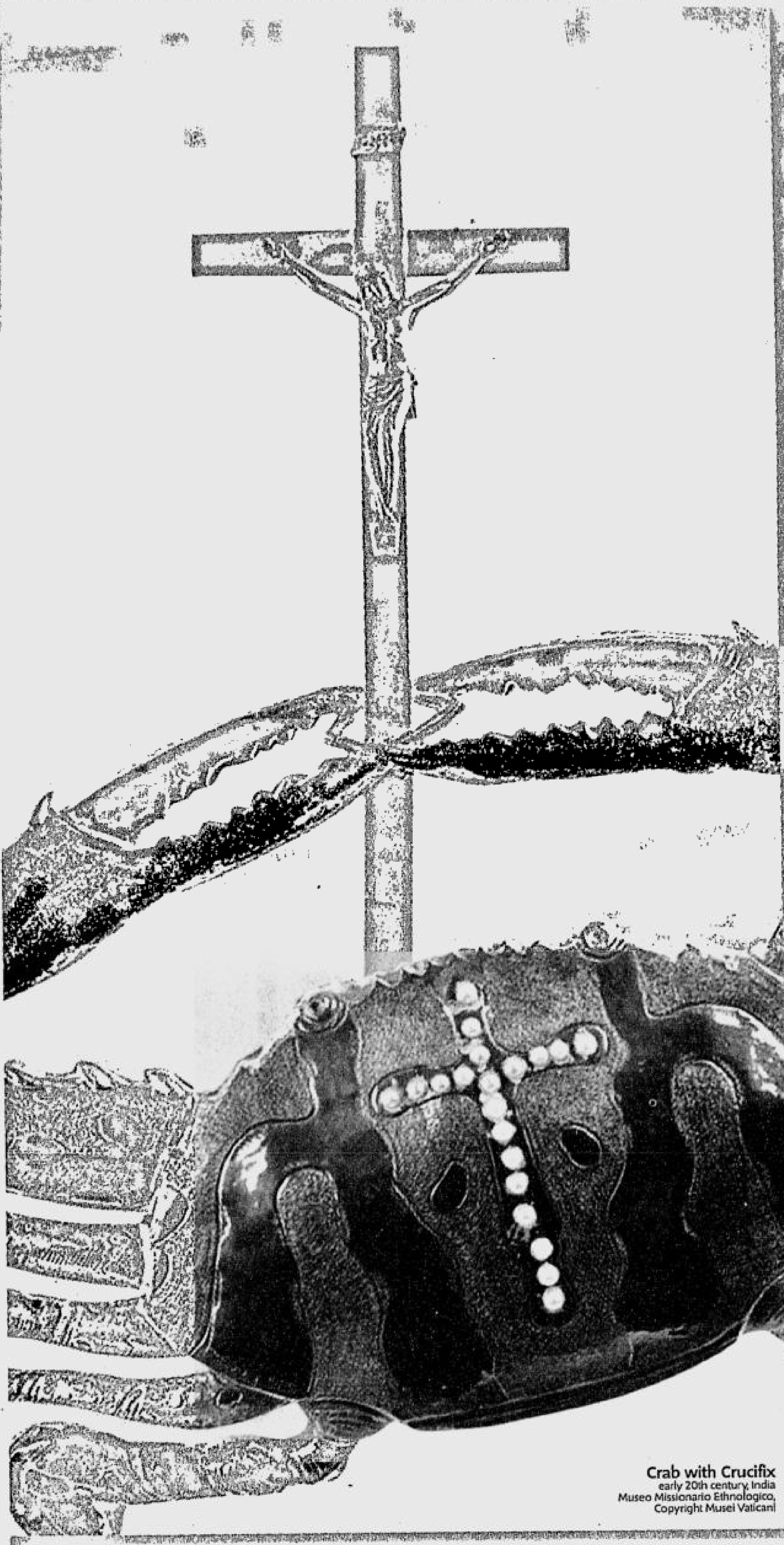

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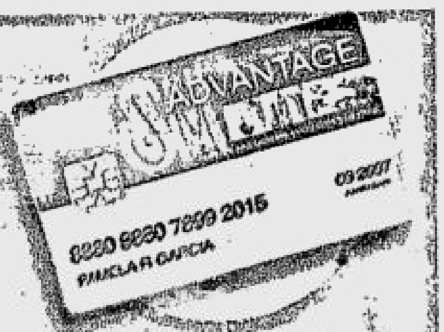

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When annoying shampoo ads attack!

From page D1

telegenic and reflects the most light. From an editorial point of view, it's easier to come up with silky straight black hair than make curly or texturized hair look nice on TV. Also, it's quite hard to achieve that disheveled-curly-piecey-sexy hair, without looking unkempt. Notice in the US it's *baligtad*. They've somehow mastered the wavy-sexy, out-of-bed look. The hairstyles of Beyoncé and the Olsen twins dominate most magazine editorials and ad campaigns."

Kevin Hernandez, a regional account director at Lowe Inc., offers a different insight. "In the 70s and 80s, black Maria Clara hair was the norm. The 90s, however, brought an influx of streaked hair, perhaps influenced by the kids in Japan, so highlights became the norm. Unilever recently came up with a rejuvenated campaign on the New Black. So it seems Filipinas have gone full circle and are now back to long black hair."

High maintenance

From an urban POV, however, keeping one's hair long, shiny, jet-black and stick-straight is a production in itself. So why does acrobatic hair, an impossible standard, appeal to Filipinas?

"That's what they see on TV and billboards," Mariel claims. She actually finds long hair attractive but unrealistic at the same time. "Unless you chemically treat your hair, or you're born with super shiny, frizz-free hair, it's difficult to achieve that look consistently here in the Philippines, what with the weather."

Agoo finds it surprising that most women still stick to the one-layered look, and have never colored their hair. "With all the innovations in cut and color, I think long hair is an outdated female stereotype. Most women believe that beautiful hair equals a beautiful self. But they tend to forget skin care or makeup techniques because they feel that their hair is enough to make them feel gorgeous."

More important, she thinks women are afraid to make that change. "They stick to what has worked for them for years, and don't want to have to try out something new. It's easier for women to blend in—a woman with chunky layers, and blonde highlights will always stand out too much in this sea of ladies with long, straight, black hair. She can be regarded as strange, and I think that's what scares her."

Time for a haircut *po*!

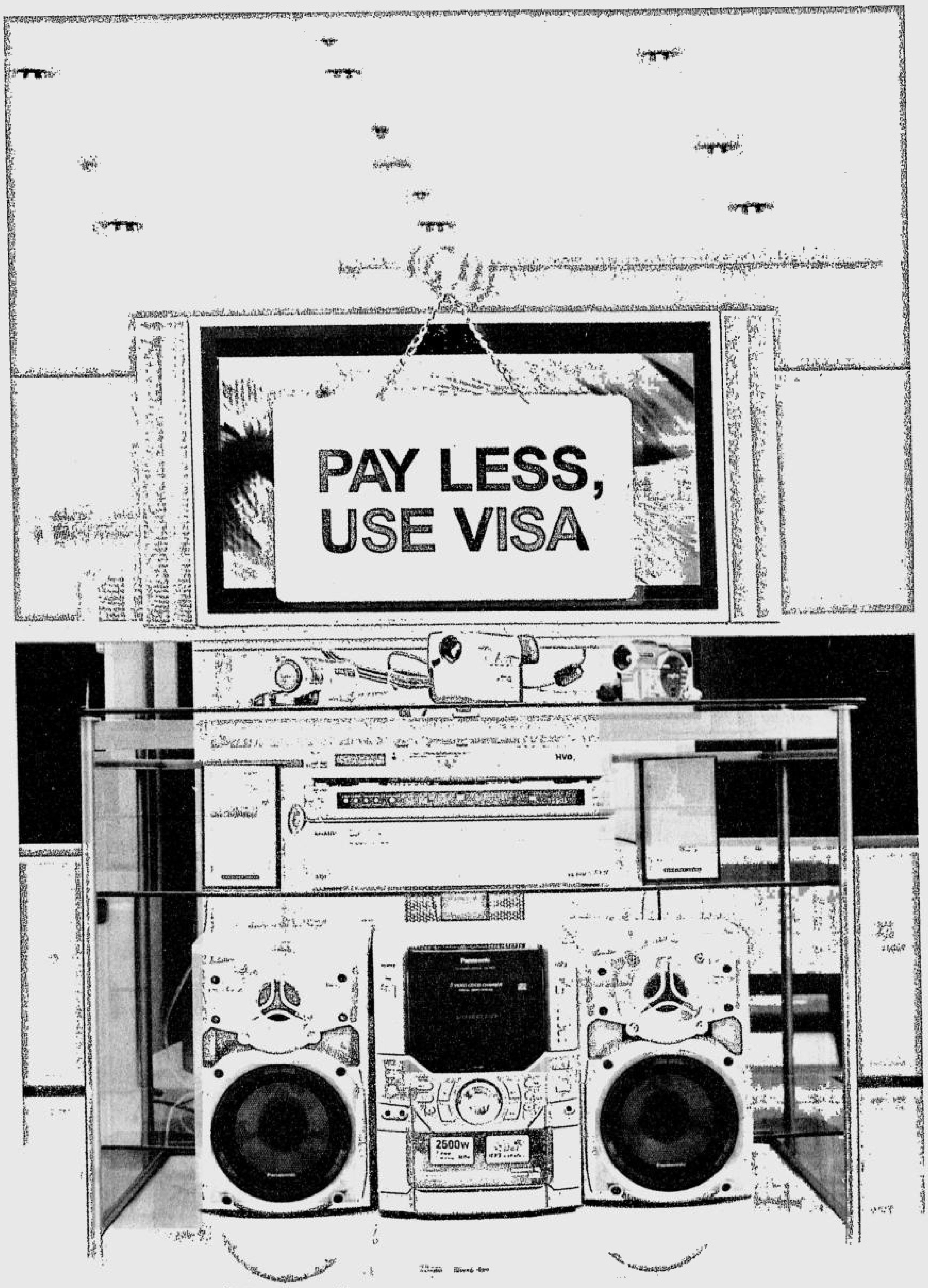
Though apart from being innately conservative, what else does this preference for long, straight, shiny black hair represent? More than that, what does the deluge of copycat shampoo commercials reveal about local advertising? A certain narrow-mindedness perhaps?

"Yes! It all goes back to our advertising culture, but you can't blame it all on them," Mariel justifies. "A lot of what comes out is client-mandated. Clients, like consumer brand execs, adhere to certain stereotypes when it comes to beauty. These clients may be married to conservative husbands who won't let them shave their legs or pluck their eyebrows, or—gasp!—curl their hair. And it goes on. It may just be straight hair, but there's so much going on there. It's quite frustrating sometimes."

Agoo believes advertisers put long straight hair above other hair types, even if there are obviously other hair types in the Philippines, because there's still a demand for it. "In the end, it's the numbers that count—that's the only way to sell. If they try to speak to the handful of women who are open to red or blonde hair, or those who don't mind getting that chic but edgy pixie cut, they won't get the numbers they need."

The irrational fear of taking risks—as well as the tendency to sugarcoat—is precisely what Ompong wants to change. "Because of our history, we don't have a strong identity. We always want to be someone else. We always want to please others. *Masyado tayong* insecure and *pikon*. We are the texting capital of the world because we can't say things face-to-face."

So until the day our advertising peeps get their balls back—and we see less of these annoying shampoo ads—our creativity will remain compromised. Pinoys can only exhale and start moving forward when, so to speak, we finally decide to cut our long, straight, shiny, black hair.



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Our fictional, dream interview with the Super! Amazing Darna

By James Gabrillo and Pepe Diokno

HOW MANY DARNAS CAN you fit in a TV screen? One, apparently. And since there aren't enough Darnas to pass around, we had to make do with an imaginary one—Super! Amazing Darna (SAD).

It was incredibly hard getting a sit-down interview with SAD, I mean, why would a celebrity like SAD sit with mere mortals? But after months of trying to persuade her trainers—sorry, handlers—to get us an interview, we were able to succeed when we offered a whole-page feature and a sack of stones.

Ladies and gentlemen, the greatest superhero ever to come out before Wonder Woman and Kuya Germs—Super! Amazing Darna!

My current state of mind is… flying. Now I know not to accept stones from anyone in the *tabi-tabi*. It's not good, you know. I should tell the government to step down… on this problem.

Do you eat rocks and boulders? *Ay, hindi*. I'm on a diet. *Grabe kasi* costume *ko e*—it's so revealing!

How's your lovelife? Well, it's very active… especially after I started wearing this suit.

My five favorite words are… *(sings)* "smile *mo, kita ko*… feel *mo*!" *Ay*, six words, *lumampas*!

People might be surprised to know that my 'real name is Narda. Surprise!

My heroes are *Ate* Shawie, Jasmine Trias, and the Ibong Adarna—because that's where my name came from! From a bird!

I aspire to be Jasmine Trias. But really, I want to become an Angel *(wink, wink!)*.

The thing I love most about what I do is I get to travel around Quezon City whenever I want. And I pass by Gateway and the old COD *pa*!

The thing about fame is I don't have time to give my brother Ding a bath *na (sobs)*.

The most important thing I've ever learned is never make a movie called 'Darna at ang Babaing Tuod,' because it will make people laugh. You know, LMAO (laugh my a** off)! I'm modern *na e*!

Who are your enemies? You know… Babaing Impakta—the conjoined evil twins, Babaing Tuod—Lucinda the tree monster, Babaing Linta—Garda the leech woman, Flaviana the Tree Woman, Ms Luna—the *manananggal*, Braguda—Queen of Anomalka, Mambabarang—Warlock King of insects, Sulfura—who has the ability to spew fire and acid and melt her enemies, and… Demonica—"the voice sucker."

The worst thing somebody said to me was "Fly, Darna, Fly!" I'm not a bird, I'm a human being! Say please, *noh*!

The worst thing that ever happened to me was I was attacked by my *kuto*.

And this taught me to… shampoo everyday, from the head to the shoulders! *(wink, wink!)*

The soundtrack to my life would include… Nelly Furtado's I'm Like A Bird, Karylle's entire album, Mike Chan's album, "Truly Mike Chan" from Galaxy Records, and… "*Ikaskas Mo Sa Pader*" by D'Bodies.

I'm saving up for… Havaianas, and a Volvo, and a country. *O ha* shock *kayo, noh*?

If someone would play me in my biopic, it would be… AN…TOINETTE TAUS.

When I'm gone they'll probably say… "*Wala na*, we're going to die."

My Super! Saturday night consists of… blogging, watching Club_TV and… designing the Master Showman set with crepe paper. I have a creative side *din naman, noh*!

What makes you Super!

My ability to fly, super strength, super speed and near invulnerability, heat vision. And my ability to swallow… stones.

TURN TO PAGE E2 FOR THE REAL ANGEL LOCSIN

ANGEL Locsin wears PM (Petit Monde), of which she is image endorser

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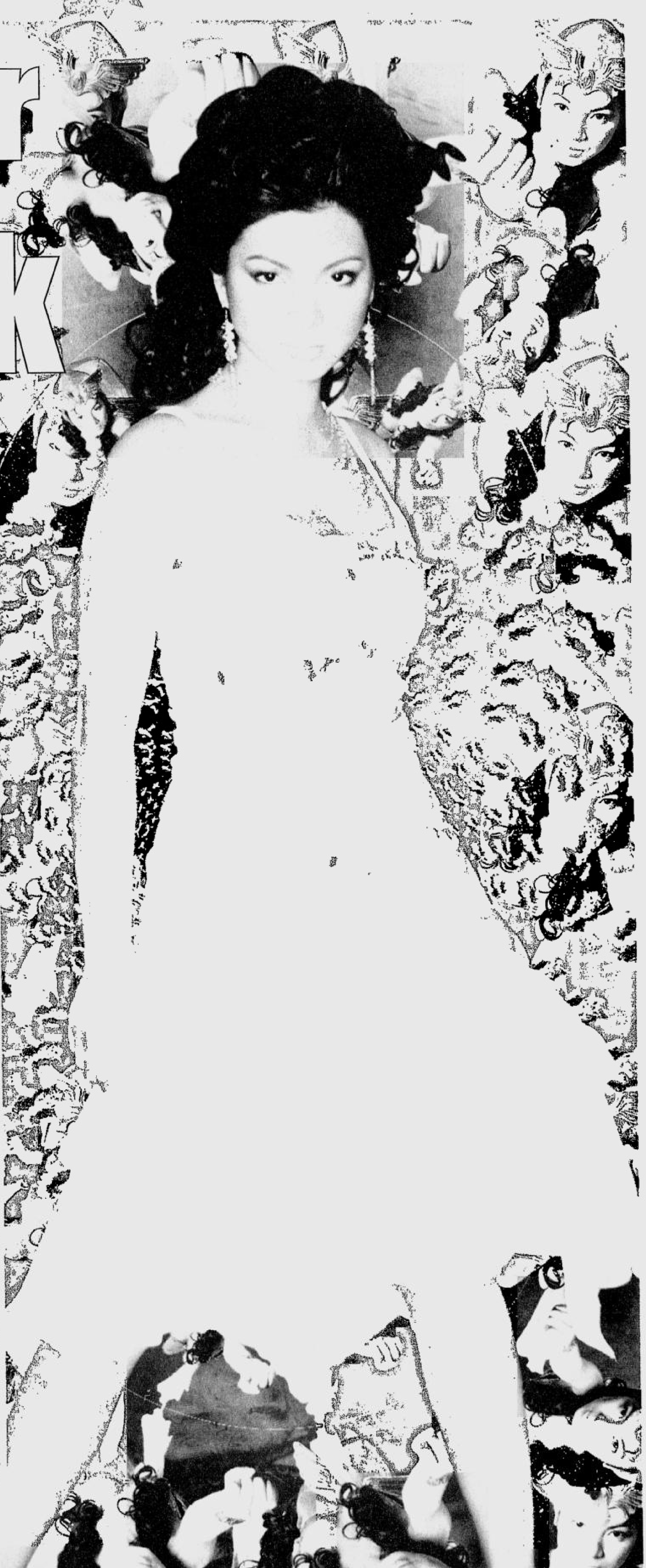
Promo period is from August 20 to September 18, 2005 Per DTI-NCR Permit no. 5013 series of 2005

Better stand back



By James Gabrillo and Pepe Diokno

IN Á CULTURE PUNCH-drunk on celebrity worship, where even Mahal and Mura have fan clubs, looks alone don't guarantee that you will have a long-lasting career. You can create your own wild controversy or sleep your way in, but as Angel Locsin proves—there are better ways to get up there.

She swam with the showbiz sharks to catch her big break. Yeah, she went the typical teen star route. Yeah, she played a tomboy. And yeah, she's this commercial draw on a big commercial network. But she isn't an image. After she got her foot through the door, she's refused to do things that don't fit her principles. She's not going bold. And she hasn't started any loud media fights.

Angel Locsin is an actress. *Artistas* do showbiz to be seen. Angel Locsin does showbiz so people can see what she can do.

She knows what she wants and she delivers. There's nothing she's afraid of in her work. Director Yam Laranas, who worked with Angel in "Sigaw," (now called "The Echo" for international audiences), recalls how they shot the scene wherein Angel is beaten up by an invisible force, "I wanted to put cardboard or something so she wouldn't get hurt—but Angel protested, 'cause she wanted it to look real. Plus she comes to the set early and often puts her own make-up."

And after all this success in showbiz, she hasn't lost her head—or herself—in the boob tube. She once said that she doesn't have a pre-packaged image. "I asked the network to let me show my real personality on TV."

Angel wants to be her own person, so she's been very reluctant to follow in the footsteps of any showbiz legend, becoming the next this or that. She says that "*pa*-cute" roles are OK, but too much of those would not allow her to improve her craft. She wants roles that would make people remember her, as Angel—the actress.

Currently, she plays Darna in GMA7's series—which premiered last April. During the second episode, it garnered 50.3% overnight ratings from AGB and is praised as being the highest rated show ever in Pinoy TV. The success can be largely attributed to Angel, as she attracts, well, every block and wing in Pinoy society. These are proofs, if any were needed, that her time has come.

As Darna, Angel is required to save the world and look smashing in the pop and familiar red attire, cruising land and sky. She has been enjoying it all—for her, portraying a Pinoy icon seems very fulfilling. Battling monsters, kicking the heads of the evil worlds, and demonstrating the strength of women—even if she's left high and dry at the end of this crazy journey, just taking it would be awesome for Angel.

Angel Locsin and Anne Curtis, two of today's hottest stars, are image models for Petit Monde, now called PM.

Whether flying or fighting, in life or onscreen, Angel Locsin, PM endorser and our generation's Supergirl, is one of a kind

Darna, who?

ORIGINALLY NAMED VARGA, Darna is a Pinoy pop icon who started busting crimes more than 50 years ago when Mars Ravelo whipped her up in his unparalled imagination, as a tribute to his own strong mother and to Filipino womanhood as a whole. Darna has jumped out of the pages of the Pinoy *komiks* and has appeared on film loads and loads of times—and has been played by the most talented actresses in the industry.

The story of Darna begins, with a young village girl named Narda and the small white stone she discovered that would change her life. The stone comes from planet Marte, the home planet of the Adranikas and Anomalikas. The queen of Anomalika, Braguda, wanted to take the stone from the queen of Adranika, Adran. Because of this the stone finds its way to planet Earth and to the hands of Narda. When Narda swallows the stone and shouts "Darna!" she becomes a mighty warrior ready to defend the Earth from evil forces.

Who has played Darna before Angel Locsin? Rosa Del Rosario, Gina Pareno, Vilma Santos, Rio Locsin, Nanette Medved, Anjanette Abayari, Lorna Tolentino, Regine Velasquez and Dolphy in the 1979 spoof "Darna Kuno?"

The Darna phenomenon has been passed on from generation to generation and we're confident that we Pinoys will continue cheering her on with "Ding, *ang bato*!" for years to come.

The Darna comic series appears in the INQUIRER.

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APPAREL

PLAINS N' PRINTS Provides classic and stylish line of clothes, underwear, fragrances and accessories for women of all lifestyles.

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SCOOP A dynamic, interactive brand offering hip and stylish apparel, shoes and accessories. Also a major source of styles, trends and inspiration for girls nationwide.

FREEWAY Stylish, affordable clothing for young independent teenagers.

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Celline Salapantan

I feel on top when: I accomplish something
The things that make me feel high are: good food, good conversation and good company
My unforgettable moments: happen always with my best friends
If I learn how to fly, I will bring my: boyfriend Jacob Bautista to Switzerland
Drop a message at: cellinesalapantan@yahoo.com

BOOMBONDOC@YAHOO.COM

Boom Bondoc

I feel on top when: I see that my hard work has paid off
The thing that makes me feel high is: when I make people smile
My unforgettable moment is: when I went to Bora with my girlfriend last summer
If I learn how to fly, I will bring my: girl

BEBEAL@YAHOO.COM

Belli Albuena

I feel on top when: I get good grades on my tests!!
The things that make me feel high are: great company, caffeine rush and supersized McDonald's meal
My unforgettable moments are: scary emergencies to the hospital, Boracay trips, and my first night-out with a 9 p.m. curfew!

JAMES_GREGORIO@YAHOO.COM

James Gregorio

I feel on top when: I accomplish my goals!
The thing that makes me feel high is: Track and Field
If I learn how to fly, I will: Travel the world everyday and enjoy the view on top

SHWATDNTBAG@YAHOO.COM

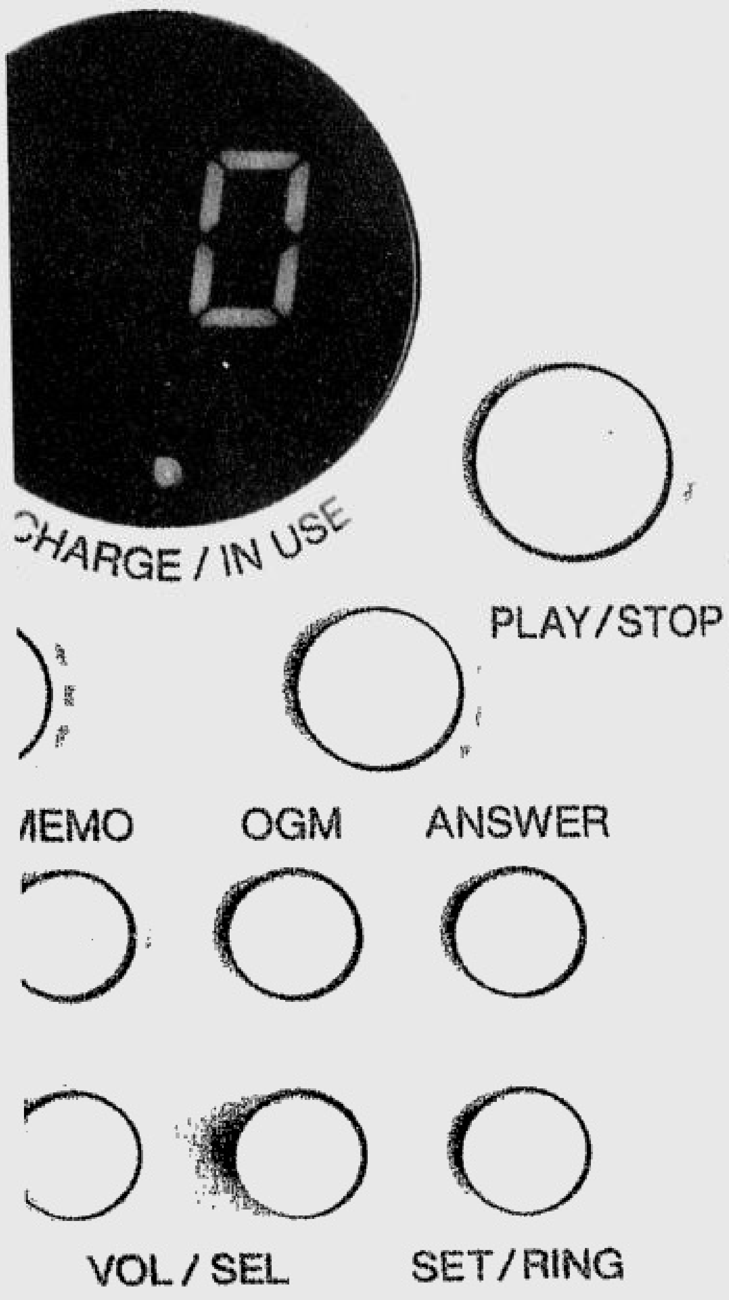
[illegible]

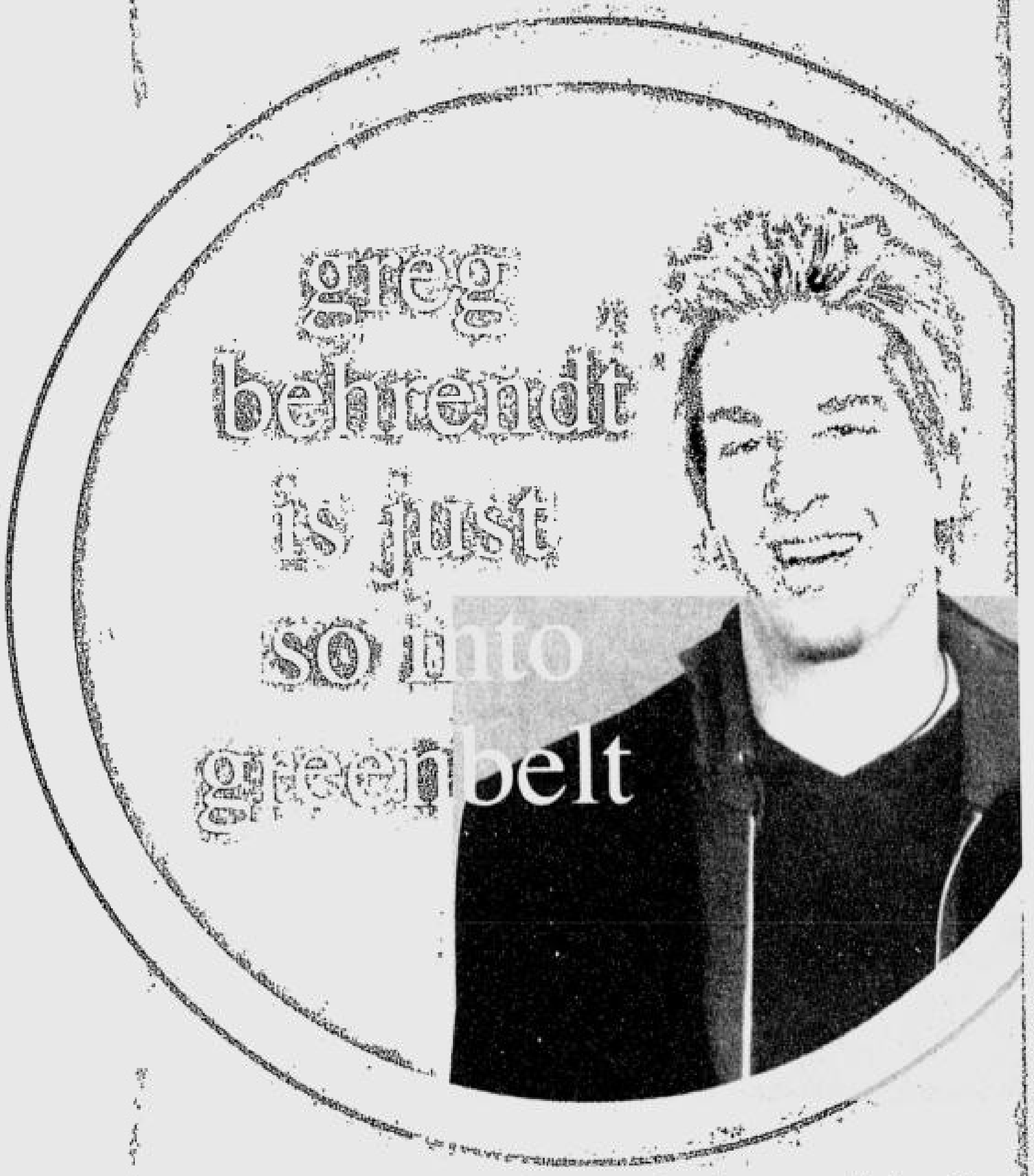
I fell on top when: I'm doing shopping
The thing that makes me feel high is: Vanilla frap with raspberry syrup
My unforgettable moments are: too much and surely more to come
If I learn how to fly, I will bring my: Hunny bunny dinonix

GIAN13MARCO@YAHOO.COM

Gian Alcantara

The things that make me feel high are: Sharing a bucket of cold beer and having good conversations with my closest friends.
If I learn how to fly, I will bring my: red cape and a parachute just in case I crash and burn

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